

1	2	3	4
23. Tripura		418.00	850.00
24. Uttar Pradesh		12278.00	11728.19
25. West Bengal		4740.00	3781.25
26. A&N Islands		25.00	0.00
27. D&N Haveli		15.00	3.00
28. Daman & Diu		10.00	0.00
29. Delhi		30.00	0.00
30. Lakshadweep		0.00	0.00
31. Pondicherry		20.00	10.00
Total		94590.00	92502.52

#### Million Wells Scheme

1871. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year of the inception of the Million Wells Scheme (MWS);

(b) the States where the scheme have been launched; and

(c) the number of irrigation wells provided to the farmers under the scheme so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA) : (a) to (c) The Million Wells Scheme (MWS) was launched as a sub-scheme of National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)/Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) during 1988-89. It continued as a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) which was launched on 1.4.1989. With effect from 1.1.1996, the MWS has been delinked from JRY and made an independent scheme and is being implemented in all the States. Since the inception of MWS, 10,65,274 open dug-wells have been constructed upto December, 1996.

#### Shortage of Power

1872. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "A mid-summer nightmare" appearing in the Pioneer dated January 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure in evolving a workable formula to meet the power crisis, despite umpteen studies made by several committees for Rajadhyaksha Committee to Power Committee between 1980 to 1993; and

(c) the steps so far taken to put the State Electricity Boards as one even keel and to rejuvenate them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reason behind performance of the State Electricity Boards not being upto expectation has, inter-alia, been unremunerative tariff fixation due to extraneous reasons, low utilisation of existing capacity, high T&D losses etc.

(c) The periodic monitoring of SEB performance has, resulted in increase in the PLF of State sector increasing from 51.3% in 1990-91 to 58.0% in 1995-96, and reductions in T&D losses from 22.89% in 1990-91 to 20.85% in 1994-95. Recently Government, with the consensus of the States, have drawn up a Common Minimum Action Plan for Power, which, inter-alia deals to create Independent Central and State Regulatory Commissions, provide autonomy to SEB's rationalise tariff structures, improve management practices of SEB's and further improve the physical parameters in a time bound manner.

[Translation]

#### Supply of LPG

1873. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the private companies functioning at present in country for supplying LPG;

(b) whether the Government have evaluated the performance of public LPG companies vis-a-vis private companies;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the monopoly of public sector companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) 96 parties have obtained rating for undertaking activities under the parallel marketing of LPG. However, as on 31.1.1997, only 17 private have imported LPG in bulk and two parties have imported package LPG.

(b) to (d) During February 1993, Government had permitted, under the parallel marketing scheme, private entrepreneurs to import and market LPG at market determined prices, under their own terms. Private parties are not required to obtain any licence from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking activities under the scheme. They are, however, required to obtain approvals/clearances under the relevant Acts and Rules regarding safety, pollution control etc., as applicable. The private parties are also now required to get themselves

rated from one of the approved rating agencies and submit the rating certificate to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and other concerned. Cumulatively upto 31.1.1997, 17 private parties have imported about 190 TMT of LPG in bulk and 2 parties have imported about 0.19 TMT in packed.

Consequent to introduction of parallel marketing scheme of LPG, there is no monopoly in LPG marketing. It is expected that by end of monopoly and on account of competition, there will be improvement in customer service.

[English]

#### Barrier Free Environment

1874. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a project has been undertaken to provide a barrier free environment to the disabled and the elderly people, as sponsored by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP);

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the details of beneficiaries of the project and the steps taken to set up such projects on a country-wide basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Pilot Project namely, the 'New Delhi Pilot Project' has been started recently with the assistance of the UN-Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) for the promotion of barrier-free built environment for the disabled and elderly persons. This Project envisages the creation of facilities to provide barrier-free access to disabled and elderly persons in five selected buildings located in the Indraprastha Estate area in New Delhi and also in Nirman Bhavan and Shastri Bhavan, housing the Ministries of Urban Affairs & Employment and Welfare respectively. This Project, which is expected to have demonstration value, aims at developing a model with appropriate designs for the replication of the same in other cities in India.

(c) The beneficiaries of the Project will include various categories of disabled persons such as the orthopaedically handicapped, visually handicapped etc. and elderly persons. With a view to promoting similar projects on a country-wide basis, draft Model Building Bye-laws, incorporating provisions for barrier-free access to the disabled and elderly persons in buildings, have been formulated and circulated by the Government of India to the State Governments.

[Translation]

#### Specific Employment Schemes

1875. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 for specific Employment Schemes in Deoria and Balia district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether these funds are being spent on some other heads; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of amount of funds allocated during 1995-96 and 1996-97 for Employment schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training for Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) in Balia and Deoria District of Uttar Pradesh are as follow :

	1995-96		1996-97	
	Balia	Deoria	Balia	Deoria
JRY	883.09	340.89	842.25	353.79
EAS*	340.00	300.00	520.00	150.00
IRDP	345.99	329.94	345.99	329.94
TRYSEM	29.32	29.88	29.32	29.88

\* The figures show the funds released.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### LPG Agencies

1876. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy of Government to encourage Cooperative Societies;

(b) If so, the places where LPG distributorship has been given to Cooperative Societies;

(c) whether the number of LPG distributorship to Cooperative Societies is much less than the number of individual LPG Agencies; and

(d) The steps Government propose to take to encourage the Cooperative Societies in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) As per existing policy cooperative societies are eligible