

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The total number of LPG consumers enrolled with distributors of PSU Oil Companies in the State of West Bengal as on 1.4.1996 was about 13.29 lakhs.

(b) As on 1.4.1996, 289 LPG distributorships were functioning in West Bengal.

(c) and (d). 90 new LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 for West Bengal as per details indicated in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Location (s)	District
Andul U.A. (Bahula), Durgapur, Asansol U.A. (4), Burdwan (2), Kalna, Menari and Guskara.	Burdwan
Nirgala, Arambagh, Serapore, Makhla, Pandua.	Hooghly
Calcutta (16)	Calcutta
Siliguri (2), Darjeeling Town.	Darjeeling
Sainthia, Bolpur, Dubrajpur, Naihati.	Birbhum
Birnagar (2), Nabadwip, Ranghat, Chakdaha, Andapur.	Nadia
Barrackpore, Bangaon, Kanchrapara, Baduria, Habra, Gobardanga, Taki, Jyangra, Sultanpur, Kanyanagar, Gopalpur, Hatlira.	24 Pargana-N
Howrah, Uluberia, Deojur, Sarenga.	Howrah
Jalpaiguri, Mainaguri, Dabagram, Bhupguri	Howrah
English Bazar(3)	Maldah
Lalgola, Duliyan, Jalganj, Derhaapur, Murshidabad, Beldanga.	Murshidabad.
Balurghat	West Dinajpur.
Khargpur (3), Midnapora Town, Haldia.	Midnapore.
Raiganj, Kaliaganj	N. Dinajpur.
Cooch Behar	Cooch Behar
Purulia	Purulia
Bankura, Sonaukhi	Bankura
Panskura Panchayat, Gora.	Medinipur
Dainhat	Bardhaman
Mazilpur	24 Pargana-S.

Reforms in Agriculture Sector

155. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether piecemeal reforms hit the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the main reasons for slow progress in bringing out reforms in the agriculture sector;

(c) whether the Government are considering to introduce reforms in an effective way in the agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The reforms carried out in the agriculture sector include liberalization of inter-state movement of foodgrains, promotion of exports of agricultural commodities, greater focus on development of rainfed farming, adoption of Technology Mission mode for development of oilseeds and pulses, promoting cropping system approach for increasing crop production, greater access to farm credit, higher minimum support price of agricultural commodities etc. These reforms have helped in improvement of agricultural productivity and production

(c) and (d). The Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution, which is under finalization deals effectively with various issues effecting agriculture sector

Cow Slaughter

156. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a total ban on cow slaughter,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) Preservation of cattle is a subject matter on which the State Legislatures have exclusive power to legislate. Accordingly various State Governments have enacted suitable laws relating to cow slaughter.

Indo-Pak Border

157. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an international drug racket operating from Pakistan in India and other countries has been burst by the Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to seal the Indo-Pak border completely to check drug trafficking and infiltrations by Pakistanis;

(d) the total number of drug trafficking cases detected in the country during 1994 and 1995;

(e) the action proposed to be taken against the drug traffickers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Three persons were apprehended by the Delhi Police on 11.1.95, when they were travelling in a Maruti Car No. HR. 23-2365. The interrogation revealed that the accused were engaged in the supply of drugs in the international market. They used to obtain heroin from their counterparts in Pakistan through Bombay and send it to Srilanka and European countries through Madras.

(c) To check drug trafficking, smuggling, infiltration etc. fencing/floodlighting of vulnerable stretches of the Indo-Pak border has been done. For affective observation, the forces have been provided with night vision devices. The BSF, Coast Guard and State Police have been working in tandem to check illegal activities from across the border.

(d) As per information made available by the Narcotics Control Bureau, 14657 and 12799 cases of drug trafficking were booked in 1994 and 1995 respectively.

(e) Action against the drug traffickers in taken in accordance with the provisions of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Cryo Programme

158 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press newsitem captioned "Cryo Programme hit by spy scandal" as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 28.05.96;

(b) if so, whether ISRO's efforts to develop cryogenic rocket engine have been delayed due to spy scandal;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to develop the cryo engine and to check spy scandals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The arrest of two senior ISRO scientists, the investigation for alleged espionage and the resultant adverse publicity did initially affect the morale of ISRO scientists and engineers and staff. However, this did not delay the realisation of the planned programme including the cryogenic technology development. Four major projects Indian Remote Sensing Satellite-1C (IRS-1C), Indian National Satellite-2C (INSAT-2C), Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-D3 (PSLV-D3) and Indian Remote Sensing Satellite-P3 (IRS-P3) were successfully completed during the last one year. Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Project has made significant progress during this period. The indigenous cryogenic programme has also made considerable progress. Cryo technology is highly complex and has taken more than 10 years elsewhere. ISRO has taken the challenge to realise the same in a shorter time frame. Developmental problems are not ruled out, but with a strong team in ISRO, supported by a good industry backup and academic linkages, ISRO is confident of realising the cryo technology.

The investigations into the case have revealed that the charges are not proved. Consequently the two ISRO scientists have been reinstated in service

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

159. PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether electrification work in a approximately 4.97 lakh villages was completed upto March 1995,

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether target has also been fixed by the Government to complete the electrification work in remaining villages; and

(d) if so, the time-frame fixed for this purpose and the number of villages yet to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) As per available information 4,97,429 villages in the country have been given electricity upto March, 1995.

(c) and (d) Rural Electrification is a continuing Process. The targets for rural electrification programme are fixed by the Planning Commission on an annual basis in consultation with the State Electricity Boards (SEB) keeping in view of the overall availability of resources and the proposals received from SEBs.