

LPG Agencies

4882. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :
 SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
 SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
 SHRI P. SANKARAN :
 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
 SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
 SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
 SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
 SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :
 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :
 SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
 SHRI JUAL ORAM :
 SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for allotting LPG agencies to the distributors and the rules governing the agencies;

(b) the number of LPG agencies, functioning in the country at present, State-wise and company-wise;

(c) the number of such agencies in the hilly areas particularly in Ranchi;

(d) the number of applications received for allotment of gas agencies, State-wise;

(e) the number of applications approved and the number out of them lying pending, State-wise; and

(f) the number of new agencies proposed to be allotted during the current year alongwith the locations, State-wise and category-wise and in hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per existing policy, oil companies advertise the locations included in the approved Marketing Plans under different reserved categories in two newspapers, one in English daily and one in vernacular daily, and invite applications from the candidates meeting the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, residence income, multiple dealership norms, etc. Selection of the

eligible candidates is made by the duly constituted Dealer Selection Boards. Reservation for different categories have been provided as under :

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	—	25%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	—	5%
Paramilitary/Police/Govt. Personnel (PMP)	—	8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	—	8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	—	2%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	—	2%
Open (O)	—	50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/distributorships in all the categories mentioned above are reserved for Women belonging to that category. Other things being equal Unmarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents and Widows are given priority over others in all women categories.

(b) As on 2.4.1998 there were 5538 LPG distributorships functioning all over the country.

(c) Oil companies are operating 318 LPG distributorships in hilly areas. Ranchi has not been identified as a hilly area in the list of hilly areas approved by the Planning Commission. However, at present there are 21 LPG distributorships in Ranchi.

(d) to (f) 1702 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 for all over the country. The receipt of applications and its scrutiny after advertisement is a continuous ongoing process. Selection of a distributor is done by the Dealer Selection Board from the applicants applying for an agency.

[*Translation*]

Sub-Regional Office

4883. SHRI MANJUNATH AYANUR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made for opening of Sub-Regional office of Provident Fund at Shimoga District, Karnataka;