

been found viable and included in the Marketing Plan. These have been advertised in June, 1998 for selection of distributors through the concerned Dealer Selection Board. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Further, the oil companies have taken action to set up LPG agencies at the following locations in Madhubani/Madhepura districts of Bihar:

Benipatti	Karmagh
Madhubani	Murliganj (Madhepura)
Ghoghardiha	

[Translation]

Quality of Diesel

959. SHRI RAJBANSHI MAHTO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diesel produced by the Public Sector oil refineries in the country is 250 times impure in comparison to the best quality of diesel produced in the World; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to improve the quality of the diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Purity of diesel (HSD) is normally measured in terms of Sulphur content. Most of the advanced countries like USA and European countries have Sulphur specification in diesel at 0.05 weight percent maximum. In India, Public Sector Indian Refineries produce diesel strictly as per BIS specifications, which is currently 1% maximum sulphur. In four metros and the Taj Trapezium, Sulphur content in diesel is even now limited to 0.25% maximum. Most of the PSU refineries supply diesel to other places also with Sulphur content much below 1%.

(b) To Supply 0.25% Sulphur diesel throughout the country Public Sector Refineries are implementing diesel hydrosulphurization projects at various location at a cost of about Rs. 5600 crores.

[English]

Adulteration in Petrol/Diesel/Mobile Oil

960. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Petrol Adulteration Thrives Capital" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 8, 1999;

(b) if so, whether adulteration in Petrol; diesel and mobile oil is going on in the capital on a large scale; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to check the adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) There have been no cases of adulteration detected by oil companies through underground hidden/unauthorised tanks, during transit in tankers and adulteration with solvents in Delhi. The company officials cooperate with law enforcing agencies and are in regular touch with State Govt. to check adulteration. Regular inspections/surprise checks of retail outlets are carried out by the officers of the oil marketing companies. Also special drives are being launched by the industry from time to time for checking malpractices including adulteration. With effect from 31.12.98, only pre-mixed fuel is being dispensed to two stroke vehicles as per directive of Supreme Court.

Opening of Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices

961. SHRI N.J. RATHWA:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open post offices/sub-post offices in Vadodara district of Gujarat, Malabar region of Kerala and in the villages of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the time by which the said post offices are likely to be opened;