

[English]

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, in the market plan for 1995-97, the companies have identified about three thousand and odd LPG dealerships. Out of this, about 2,400 are earmarked only for the rural areas. At present, the pending list in the country is for 1.34 crores. I think, it is certain that we will wipe out the waiting list by the year 2000. After that, I think, for the metropolitan cities and other urban areas, it will be an demand. For the rural areas, our Ministry is drafting a plan for extending the LPG dealership at the block level also.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the practical problem. We have been given rights to allot gas connection but a rule has been made therein that name should be there in waiting list and no gas agency dealer is need to put the name or any rural fellow in the waiting list. He says that it is meant for urban areas. I would like to know from the Minister whether he will make any arrangement in giving some slackness in the provision made unless arrangement for one L.P.G. dealer at every village level, block level is made.

[English]

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, there is a direction from the hon. Speaker. In no way, I am connected with this particular condition. But I can convey to all the dealers that whenever such requests from hon. MPs come, they would immediately register the names.
..(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, this is an important matter. We have to review and see whether we can change that direction. ..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, we will review it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Pollution by Coal Mines

*164. DR. SANJAY SINH:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of coal mines are causing air pollution and successfully avoiding the norms proscribed in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Coal mining activities like blasting, drilling, crushing, handling and transfer of material cause air pollution. In some places the values of suspended particulate matter has exceeded the prescribed limits.

(c) The State Pollution Control Boards and the Regional Offices of the Ministry, monitor the compliance status/environmental conditions for the projects. In case of non-compliance/unsatisfactory compliance of stipulated conditions, appropriate action is taken against the project proponents.

Criteria for Allotment of LPG Agencies

*165. SHRI MADAN PATIL:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

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

(a) the criteria for the allotment of LPG agencies;

(b) whether there is any comprehensive plan to cover the rural areas by LPG;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the supply position of LPG is monitored periodically;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): (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 the other in a vernacular daily, inviting applications from the candidates meeting the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, residence, income, multiple dealership norms, etc. Selection of the dealers/distributors from amongst 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/Government Personnel (PMP)	— 8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	— 8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	— 2%
Outstanding Sports persons (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.

(b) and (c) In order to cater to the requirement of LPG in rural areas, LPG marketing plan 1996-98 has been formulated on the following basis:

- To cover all urban locations with a population of 10000 and above taking into account potential of adjoining villages within a radius of 15 Kms.
- All urban viable locations having population of 5000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages within 15 Km. radius.
- Cluster of villages within 15 Km. radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10000 and above.

- Villages within 15 Km. radius around the towns having population of 1 lakh and above for opening rural distributorships.

Accordingly, out of 2000 locations included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98, about 1900 locations have been earmarked for Urban-Rural and Rural areas. It has been planned to release a large number of LPG connections in the rural areas through these new LPG distributorships.

(d) and (e) The supply position of LPG is monitored by the Oil Companies and the Government regularly and prompt action is taken to rectify deficiency in supply, if any.

(f) Does not arise.

Regional Pharmacy Institutes/Colleges

*166. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Pharmacy Institutes/Colleges functioning in the country;

(b) the number of students admitted in them annually;

(c) the criteria for admission and quota fixed in them for various States;

(d) whether many such Institutes/Colleges do not have the facilities as per the prescribed norms; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) As per information received from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), there are 197 pharmacy colleges in the country with an annual intake of 9657 students.

(c) The criteria and norms for admission are governed by the guidelines contained in AICTE (Norms and Guidelines for Fees and Guidelines for Admission in Professional Colleges), Regulations, 1994.