

(a) whether the Government have seashed LPG connections target for 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of consumers on the waiting list for LPG connections at present, State-wise.

(d) the number of new connections released on priority basis during each of the last two year, State-wies; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken for early clearance of waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government have approved the release of 25 lakh new connections and 25 lakhs DBCs for the year 1998-99 through PSU Oil Companies against 40 lakh target for 1997-98. Lower enrolment has been planned, on account of non operation of Mumbai and Vizag import facilities and disruption of LPG import facilities at Kandla due to cyclone in around June, July, August, 98. It is planned to increase the target to around 35 lakhs now by arranging higher imports through available facilities.

(c) The number of persons in the waiting list registered with the distributors of Public Sector Oil Cos in the country as on 1.10.98 was about 137.5 lakhs.

(d) The details of number of LPG connections/DBC released by PSU Oil Companies in the country during the last two years including priorities against MP's quota, Taj Trapezium, Tatkal Scheme, Hill area etc., against 40 lakh target for 1997-98 are given below :

Year	New Connection Released (Lakhs)	DBC Released (Lakhs)
1996-97	23.4	22.41
1997-98	41.4	38.06

Year	No. of Air journeys	State/Country visited	Reason for journey	Amt. spent (Rs.)	Expenses borne by
1	2	3	4	5	6
1996-97	2	Karnataka	To accompany Minister/MOS on Official visit	16,011	Ministry
	12	Tamil Nadu	-do-	1,35,866	-do-
	2	Maharashtra	-do-	15,448	-do-
	1	Bihar	-do-	6,870	-do-
		Total		1,74,195	
	2	Gujarat	-do-	15,390	IOC
1997-98					
Domestic	2	Karnataka	-do-	21,080	Ministry
	21	Tamil Nadu	-do-	2,55,124	-do-

(e) Release of new connections against the waiting list depends inter-alla upon product availability, slack available with the existing distributors, minimum sustainable allocation to newly commissioned distributors, unviable distributors etc., With the expected higher availability of LPG through imports and indigenous production, more connections are planned to be released in future and it is expected to clear the entire waiting list by the year 2000-2001.

Air Journeys By Ministry Personnel

406. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA :

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

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

(a) the number of air journeys undertaken by the personal staff of the Minister during each of the last two years alongwith the States and Countries visited by them;

(b) the reasons for undertaking such journeys;

(c) the amount spent on each journey, year-wise;

(d) whether the expenses were borne by the Ministry or any company; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Expenditure incurred on Air Journeys undertaken by personal staff of Minister/Minister of State, Petroleum and Natural Gas during 1996-98

1	2	3	4	5	6
	4	Andhra Pradesh	-do-	31,843	-do-
	4	Maharashtra	-do-	28,985	-do-
	1	West Bengal	-do-	10,713	-do-
	1	Uttar Pradesh	-do-	3,522	-do-
		Total		3,51,267	
	1	West Bengal	-do-	12,115	IOC
	1	Tamil Nadu	Laying ceremony of LPG Bottling Plant at Thanjavur, T.N.	13,910	HPCL
International	1	China/Hongkong	To attend 15th World Petroleum Congress & to have discussion with Investment Bankers & Group of NRIs	65,427	Ministry
	1	France	To accompany MOS on official visit	71,240	Ministry
		Total		1,36,667	

[English]

Fertilizer Policy

407. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government have formulated a new fertilizer policy;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the time by which this policy is likely to be announced;
- whether the Government propose a number of changes in the existing retention prices scheme for urea;
- whether the policy is likely to cut subsidies by Rs. 350 crores of urea; and
- the major changes that are likely to be made in the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (f) The High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee (HPC) has made recommendations regarding a new fertilizer policy. Inter-Ministerial con-

sultations and dialogue with the industry have been undertaken in regard to the recommendations made by the High Powered Committee. A new fertilizer policy will be announced after conclusion of this exercise.

Skilled and Unskilled Emigrants

408. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- whether the Protectorate of Emigrants throughout the country are responsible for recruiting labour for sending them to foreign countries;
- whether a large number of labour both skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled sent abroad every year to Middle-East;
- whether the Government have emphasised for the issue of Directory of all registered agents in the country;
- if so, the steps taken for publishing the same so far; and
- the measures taken so far for stationing of labour attaches to keep the interest of these labour against exploitation ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Under the Emigration Act, 1983 recruit-