

(e) if so, when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) There are 873 Petrol/diesel Retail Outlets and 149 LPG distributorships in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c). The oil industry conducts survey on a continuous basis to identify locations for development of Retail Outlets/LPG distributorships. Based on the estimated growth in demand, 62 new locations have been indentified in Rajasthan for the development of Retail Outlets and 40 locations for LPG distributorships in a phased manner.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Retail Outlets (Petrol/diesel are set up in line with the volume/distance norms stipulated for the purpose, on the basis of regular surveys conducted by the oil companies. On the other hand LPG distributorships are being introduced in Towns/cities with population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census) offering viable distributorships subject to product availability.

[English]

Closing of Bombay-Nanded Vayudoot Service

713. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to close down Bombay-Nanded Vayudoot service;

(b) if so, reasons thereof; and

(c) the reasons for operating Bombay-Hyderabad Vayudoot service on that route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Vayudoot has been rationalising its route network in order to reduce mounting losses and utilise its fleet in a more efficient manner. As a result, the number of stations in its network has been cut down from about 104 to 55 now. The operations to Nanded have been discontinued as part of this rationalisation of Vayudoot's operations.

(c) The Bombay-Aurangabad/Pune-Hyderabad routes yield better returns to Vayudoot.

Supply of Coal to Vijayawada Thermal Power Station

714. SHRI RAJAMOCHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure the smooth supply of coal to the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): Vijayawada Thermal Power Station (VTPS) in Andhra Pradesh was originally linked to Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) for requirement of coal. On account of low production in Singareni, a part of the Linkage has been shifted from SCCL to Talcher Coalfield. However, Railways have expressed some capacity constraints in moving coal from Talcher to VTPS specially during busy season. Following steps have been taken to ensure smooth supply of coal VTPS:

(i) Higher linkage from SCCL

(ii) Supply of at least 10 rakes a month from Talcher Coalfield