

(b) if so, what are the reasons for giving unfair treatment to such applicants in the State;

(c) the details of the applications made to Government in 1997-98 for allotment of gas for power generation in East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna districts of the State; and

(d) the steps proposed to expeditiously clear such applications for small quantities of gas for power plants of less than 10 MW capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. of applications received during 1997-98 by GAIL/ONGC are as under:—

Name of Distt.	Name of Company	
	GAIL	ONGC
East Godawari	07	08
West Godawari	02	01
Krishna	03	08
TOTAL	12	17

(d) Allocation of Natural Gas to various applicants requiring gas for various purposes is finalised by the Gas Linkage Committee keeping in view the overall availability. Exploration efforts are continuously made with the objective of increasing the production and availability.

Recruitment in ONGC

1776. SHRI DRUPAD BORG-HAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Eastern Region, has not opened new recruitment for the last several years, whereas, in the meantime many vacancies occurred due to retirements etc.; and

(b) what are the reasons of closing such recruitment and by when these vacancies will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) ONGC Ltd. has been making recruitment in ERBC. During the last five years, it has recruited 188 executives and 404 non-executives. The creation and filling up of posts is a continuous process and the same is done keeping in view the requirement from time to time.

introduction of Autogas as a green fuel

1777. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

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

(a) whether any study has been made for determining the feasibility of introducing autogas as a green fuel alternative to petrol and diesel in the capital; if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether the study has been conducted by a foreign agency, a consortium of Dutch companies; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what follow-up action is proposed to be taken to promote the green fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) A Pilot on the use of Propane in 3-wheelers with 2-stroke engine as alternate fuel to petrol has been undertaken by a private party as per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has supplied propane to the private party for undertaking the pilot project. The Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun has been engaged for type approval of the conversion kit for use of propane in 3 wheeler with 2-stroke engines.