

specific communication/information regarding the two resolutions passed by the All India Kashmiri Pandits Conference in its session stated to have been held on 2nd October, 1993 at Jammu.

However, representations have been received from migrants/their organisations representing them which have included demands for grant of concessional loans, allotment of shops and sites etc., to enable them to start business activities till they are able to return to the State. Demands for appointing a custodian for their properties have also been made.

Permanent rehabilitation of the migrants outside the Valley is not contemplated. Hence arrangements have been made to provide for their basic needs, by way of cash relief, rations, temporary accommodation and facilities relating to education, banking and insurance etc. As for the properties of the migrants in the valley, the State Government has initiated action to collect details of the same. It is expected that this would facilitate better security, sanction of loans against the said properties, settlement of insurance claims, etc.

As regards compensation for the damaged/looted property under the existing policy of the Government ex-gratia relief in case of immovable property is being paid to the tune of 50% of the extent of damages, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh.

#### **Use of Alcohol as an alternative to Petrol**

1749. **SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN** : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of countries using alcohol as an alternative fuel to petrol; and

(b) whether Government would allow

the use of alcohol as an alternative fuel to petrol in India?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA)**: (a) As per the information available with this Ministry, alcohol (methanol or ethanol) is being used in petrol driven vehicles in countries like Brazil, New Zealand, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Japan, United States of America, Argentina and Kenya.

(b) The technology of using alcohol in partial or total substitution of petrol is established. Based on the availability of surplus methanol as also the test and trials of using a blend of 3% of methanol with petrol (M-3 blend) in petrol powered vehicles, the Government have approved conduct of an experiment of using M-3 blend at 10 retail outlets in the city of Baroda for a period of one year even though financially the project has not been found to be viable. As regards ethanol, its use would depend on its surplus availability on sustained basis and financial viability.

#### **Closing Down of Northern Regional Business in the HQs. by ONGC**

1750. **SHRI SURESH KALAMADI: SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has initiated a process of closing down its Northern Regional Business Centre Headquarters in Jammu; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA)**: (a) and (b) As

there no definite indications of oil and gas in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh even after drilling of 26 wells, its necessitated curtailment of exploratory drilling activities at ONGC's Northern Regional Business Centre, Jammu. Exploratory drilling in these areas is suspended but seismic surveys are continued to evaluate any need of further exploration activities in these States.

#### LPG Connections in Kumaon Region in Uttar Pradesh

1751. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of LPG connections with each agency in Almora, Ranikhet, Haldwani and Nainital of Uttar Pradesh and the number of persons on the waiting list as on the 30th September, 1993;

(b) by when wait listed persons are likely to be provided the LPG connections in those towns; and

(c) what are the other places in hill districts of Kumaon region in Uttar Pradesh where LPG facilities are available at present and by when the remaining districts are likely to be provided with such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a)

Name of distributor	No. of Customers as on 30-9-93	Waiting list as on 30-9-93
Chowdhari Gas Agency, Haldwani	6132	6231
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Haldwani	12766	—
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Almora	7555	2002
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Ranikhet	5396	1944
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Nainital	12236	540

(b) Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible, subject to product availability.

(c) All the Districts of Kumaon region are covered by LPG facilities with 16 markets and 105 extension points. New LPG distributorships are opened subject to availability of the product in a phased manner, based on feasibility and economic viability.

#### Opening of LPG agency at Basot in Almora (U.P.)

1752. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no LPG agency at Basot which is the last motorable point in Ranikhet-Bhatraujkhan-Basot Road in District Almora, U.P.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Ranikhet Gas Service supplies LPG cylinder at Bhatraujkhan twice a month to all the consumers residing at places spread over 15 Kms. from Bhatraujkhan to Basot;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to direct M/s. Ranikhet Gas Service to supply LPG Cylinders on all the main points along the Bhatraujkhan-Basot Road; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Ranikhet Gas Service are meeting the requirements of LPG Customers at Bhatraujkhan as an extension point.

(c) and (d) Introduction of LPG facility at Basot and nearby villages will be considered by the Indian Oil Corporation as and when a request is received from the State Government in this regard, subject to product availability and enrolment plan.