

(c)	R.O.	L.P.G. (on all India Basis)
HPC	244	163
BPC	212	135
IOC	260	289
IBP	90	..
Total :	806	587

As a number of steps precede the actual allotment of a distributorship/dealership, it is not possible to indicate the exact time by which the above dealerships/distributorships will be allotted.

Telecommunication services in Assam

1423. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that the telecommunication services in Assam are unsatisfactory; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the telecommunication network in Assam and particularly in Guwahati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Telecommunication services in Assam are generally satisfactory. However, to further improve the services, the following action is being taken:

(i) Installation of electronic exchange at Guwahati with remote units at Dispur, Jhalukbari and Noonmati.

(ii) Replacement of manual exchanges at Karimganj, Hailakande and North Lakhimpur by electronic ones.

(iii) Expansion of Guwahati telephone exchange.

(iv) Expansion of Dibrugarh exchange.

In addition to above, the following actions are being taken under Mission Better Communications to further improve the present service:

(i) Replacement of old unserviceable telephone instruments.

(ii) Replacement of fault-prone cables.

(iii) Replacement of heavy overhead alignment by underground cables

Requirement of energy in rural and tribal areas

1424. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) what is the per capita energy requirement in rural and tribal areas of the country;

(b) whether this requirement is high or low as compared to other developing countries in the commonwealth; and

(c) if low, what steps have been taken by Government to increase the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The Report of the

Working Group on Energy Policy (1979) had estimated that the annual per capita consumption of energy on households in rural areas is about 0.38 tonnes of coal replacement and the household energy constitutes about 80 per cent of the total energy consumption in rural areas. Estimates in respect of tribal areas are not available separately.

(b) The per capita energy consumption in rural areas in India is lower in comparison to that in some of the Commonwealth countries.

(c) The programmes undertaken in the 7th Plan to augment the availability of energy in rural areas include additional supply of electricity from the grid, setting up of bio-gas plants, improved chulhas, fuelwood plantation, Integrated Rural Energy Planning Programme, and installation of devices based on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy.

Telephones on the recommendation of Members of Parliament

1425. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections are sanctioned on the recommendations of Members of Parliament in the same way as Petroleum Ministry allows cooking gas connections; and

(b) if so, on what basis recommendations of Members of Parliament are accepted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Recommendations from Members of Parliament for according priority for telephone connections are given due consideration. The recommendations are accepted taking into consideration the availability of exchange capacity and merits of the case.

In view of above, no separate quota is considered necessary.

Shifting of hazardous Industries in Assam to safe places

1426. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been made about the industries which are located in crowded localities in Assam and whose emissions of gas are harmful to the public;

(b) if so, what are the details of those studies; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to shift these industries to far off areas?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The Ministry of Industry have not made any such studies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposals for setting up of National Advisory Panel

1427. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the hurdles for the Central Government for setting up a national advisory panel with representatives of the State Governments for formulating national industrial policy for the country from time to time;

(b) whether any such proposals have been received from the State Governments; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Central Government is empowered to constitute a Central Advisory Council of Industries to advise it on