

(b) while no application were called for the allotment of LPG distributorship during 1986, applications for a total of 18 Retail Outlet and 15 SKO LDO dealership were called for during that year out of which six dealerships each for petrol/diesel Retail Outlets, Kerosene agencies were pending finalisation as on July 31, 1988. As various steps precede the actual commissioning of a distributorship/dealership, it is not feasible to indicate the exact time by which these would be commissioned;

(c) except for a reservation of 25% for SC/ST category, there is no separate reservation for Muslims or minorities in the allotment of distributorships/dealerships for LPG, Petrol/Diesel and Kerosene. Hence no statistics on them are maintained.

Requirement of L.P.G. Cylinders

4505. **SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the approximate requirement of Gas cylinders by oil companies in the country at present :

(b) whether Government are aware that gas cylinders produced by the factories situated in 'No Industry Districts' are cheaper in comparison to those produced in other sectors;

(c) if so whether Government are giving any preference to the factories situated in 'No Industry Districts' while placing orders;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any memorandum in this regard had been received by Government in the past and if so, what action has been taken thereon;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) The oil industry's requirement of LPG cylinders for the year 1988-89 is approx. 25 lakhs;

(b) to (e) The basic price of LPG cylinders is common to all cylinder manufacturers; the final price of cylinders, however, may vary marginally on account of sales tax exemption/loan facilities extended by the State Governments to the units situated in 'No Industry Districts'. While representations have been received from a few cylinder manufacturers in this regard, orders for cylinders are being placed by the oil industry with the various cylinder manufacturers, keeping in view the overall production capacity available in this sector as well as the oil industry's requirement.

Privatisation of Loss-incurring Public Sector Units

4506. **SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:**

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a final decision to privatise inefficient public sector units which are continuously incurring losses;

(b) if so, what is the number of such public sector units which are to be handed over to the private sector;

(c) what efforts are being made to tone up the efficiency in the other public sector units which are running on loss;

(d) what were the programmes in respect of those units which have been continuously running in loss for the last five or ten years and have not improved their performance in spite of the efforts made; and

(e) whether huge losses in these public sectors are still continuing ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) :

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have continuously taking steps to improve performance of public enterprises which differ from enterprise to enterprise depending on their specific problems. However, the steps in general are listed out at page 179 of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 1986-87 laid on the Table of the House on 25-2-1988.

(e) Losses in some of public sector units are still continuing.

Marketing of Sub-Standard Drugs

4507 DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale marketing of sub-standard drugs in the country as reported in the

Indian Express of 12th July, 1988:

(b) whether manufacturers and retail sellers will be made responsible for the sale of safe and quality drugs to the consumers; and

(c) whether Government will market drugs through a chain of stores as part of Public Distribution System or through consumer cooperatives throughout the country in order to break the monopoly the present distribution and marketing channels?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO):

(a) There is no news item relating to sub-standard drugs available in the Indian Express dated 12th July, 1988 New Delhi edition.. However during the year 1986-87, 26082 samples drawn by Drugs Inspectors of various States were tested out of which 4030 samples were found sub-standard.

(b) Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules every manufacturer is responsible for the quality of drugs manufactured and marked by him. Under the conditions of licence for retail sale a licensee has to purchase drugs only from duly licensed dealer or duly licensed manufacturer. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, prohibits manufacture/stocking/sale of sub-standard spurious, misbranded or adulterated drugs.

(c) No such decision has been taken by the Government so far.