

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) the required information is given in the enclosed annexure [See Appendix CXLVII, Annexure. 149].

(d) New LPG connections are being released by the oil industry all over the country, including in Tamil Nadu, in a phased manner under its annual programme for enrolment of customers, subject to augmentation in availability of LPG, through its expanding distributorship network.

Profits earned by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited on Wrong Numbers

4491. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the

Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any survey as to the indirect profits (through wrong numbers and registering of complaints) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited earns due to fault rate of 20 per cent prevailing in Delhi;

(b) what is the amount earned by Government through registered and unregistered *i.e.* repeated complaints on 198 (which is metered now) during the last four months; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to reduce this illegal and unethical profit being earned by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR, BAHADUR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However it is not correct to assume that every fault results in wrong numbers.

The percentage of incidence of wrong calls is very small in the system. The wrong calls can be due to:

(i) wrong and improper dialling by subscribers; and

(ii) a few system faults.

The tariff structure does take into account the normal incidence of such faults.

(b) The fault repair service (198) is not metered and therefore, calls to this service are not charged.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) & (b) above;

Thermal Units under the Administrative Control of NTPC

4492. SHRI V.GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of thermal units under the National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) what is: the installed capacity of each unit and their respective past performance:

(c) how many more units are under construction and what will be their installed capacity;

(d) how much funds have been allotted for each of these new projects during the current year and