

Bengal Potteries

927. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further extend the take over period of Bengal Potteries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to nationalise Bengal Potteries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) It has not been possible for the Government to take a decision with regard to the future disposition of the undertaking of M/s. Bengal Potteries Ltd., as certain important issues like excess labour force, inadequate working capital, uninterrupted power supply etc. are involved. Meanwhile the period of take over of management of M/s. Bengal Potteries Limited has been extended upto 30.6.1987, or till a decision with regard to the future disposition of the undertaking as taken, whichever is earlier.

Complaints in elections

928. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has got complaints about the malpractices in bye-election in Uttar Pradesh and the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of the complaints are still under compilation by the

Election Commission in consultation with the Chief Electoral officers of the States concerned.

(b) This will arise only after the complaints have been compiled and analysed.

LPG/Kerosene dealerships for reserved categories in Kerala

929. SHRI T. K. C. VADUTHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of distributorships/dealerships for LPG, kerosene etc. of Indian Oil Corporation and of the erstwhile private oil companies during the period from 1st January, 1984 to 31st March, 1987 under the reserved category and General category in Kerala State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the applications called for as early as in 1986 are still pending for decision and if so, how many such cases are pending for decision as on the 31st March, 1987;

(c) what are the criteria followed for the election of area for opening the outlet and whether the feasibility of the new dealership is ascertained before locating the area; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the reserved category is located invariably outside the city and major towns and if not, how many outlets are sanctioned under the reserved category in the cities and major municipal limits in Kerala during the period from the 1st January, 1984 to the 31st March, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The Oil Industry have awarded the following distributorships/dealerships in the State of Kerala during the period from 1.1.84 to 31-3-87:—

Retail Outlet Dealership (Petrol/**Diesel****Open****Reserved Categories**

33 10

SKU LDO Dealerships**Open****Reserved Categories**

6 —

Open**Reserved Categories**

62 30

Reserved Categories mean SC/ST, UG/UEG, PH, Defence & FF.

(b) Yes Sir. The number of LPG distributorships/RO/SKO-LDO dealerships in Kerala for which applications are pending as on 31.3.1987 is as under:

L.P.G. ... 34

R.O. ... 8

SKO-LDO ... Nil

(c) Availability of sufficient demand potential for an economically viable dealership is the fundamental criterion observed for both LPG distributorships as well as MS/HSD Retail Outlets; in respect of the latter, volume-distance norms are also taken into consideration.

(d) No, Sir. Eighteen Retails Outlets under the reserved categories were commissioned in municipal areas in Kerala during the period from the 1st January, 1984 to the 31st March, 1987.

Difference in the prices of Gas Burners/ hot plates

930. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PAT-TNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the L.P.G. agencies are selling the gas

burners/hot plates at much higher rates than those prevailing in the open market;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to investigate the matter and take action against the erring distributors;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to ask the distributors to display the prices of these articles on their notice boards; and

(d) whether Government propose to remove the difference in the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The price of LPG stoves is not regulated by Government and is determined by market forces.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a).

(c) LPG distributors are under instructions to display the selling prices of LPG stoves at their premises.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a).

Production of Ethambutol Tablets

931. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IDPL is producing Ethambutol tablets;

(b) if so, what was the value of order placed on IDPL for Ethambutol tablets during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87, year-wise;

(c) what was the total value of orders placed on Ethambutol tablets, an anti-TB drug during the above period;