

butorships are presently in operation in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The Oil Industry has planned to open 37 new LPG distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh under its 1984-85 Marketing Plan. Selection for these is under way.

476. [Transferred to the 15th May, 1985].

**M/s. Devi Anupma Gas Service, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi**

477. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s. Devi Anupma Gas Service, Indane Gas agent, D.D.A. Market, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi has a long waiting list and has been unable to supply gas to registered consumers;

(b) if so, upto which month and year, the waiting list, serial-wise, has been cleared;

(c) how many new connections are proposed to be supplied by this agency in 1985; and

(d) what are the difficulties faced by this agency in keeping the waiting list to the minimum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) M/s. Devi Anupma Gas Service has been supplying LPG to consumers registered with them. As on April 30, 1985 this distributor had a waiting list of 4,857. The waiting list upto serial number 4519 dated 19-8-80 has been cleared.

(c) Some new connections may be released through this distributorship during 1985 depending upon the time upto which con-

version of the existing consumers to the new type of equipment is completed.

(d) The difficulty in reducing the waiting list has been that its consumers are on the old equipment. Therefore, new connections to persons on this agency's waiting list are being gradually released through distributorships being commissioned in that area.

### Closed Paper Mills

478. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several big and small mills basically manufacturing various kinds of paper are lying closed in the country for a long time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many mills are lying closed due to shortage of raw materials, finance and mismanagement;

(c) if so, what are the details of each such mill lying closed along with the composition of management; involvement of nationalised banks and financial institutions; and

(d) what action is being taken to reopen these closed units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (d) Three large integrated pulp and paper mills, viz. Bengal Paper Mills, Ashok Paper Mills and Rohtas Paper Mills are lying closed at present. Besides, non-availability of essential inputs, finance and management deficiencies, the reasons for their closure include labour problems, obsolescence of plant and machinery, uneconomic operations, etc.

Besides, 34 small paper mills are reported to be lying closed in various states as indicated below:

State	No. of Small Mills remaining closed
Assam . . . . .	1
Bihar . . . . .	2
Madhya Pradesh . . . . .	3
Uttar Pradesh . . . . .	10
Maharashtra . . . . .	5
Andhra Pradesh . . . . .	1
Karnataka . . . . .	3
West Bengal . . . . .	4
Gujarat . . . . .	5
	34

According to an IDBI study the causes for the poor performance of the small paper mills are:—

(i) Poor utilisation of installed facilities on account of equipment bottlenecks.

(ii) High cost of coal coupled with low thermal efficiency.

(iii) Power shortage.

(iv) Problems connected with procurement of raw materials.

(v) Non-availability of trained man-power and inadequate management.

Details of composition of management and extent of involvement of Nationalized Banks are not available in respect of each such mill.

Government have initiated a dialogue with the financial institutions/State Governments to work out specific measures required to improve the performance of the Paper Mills. Various fiscal reliefs are being extended to assist the industry and infrastructural support is also being im-

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proved to enable the industry to achieve higher capacity utilisation.

### Gas deposits in western region of Rajasthan

479. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas deposits have been located in the western region of Rajasthan bordering Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is the estimated gas reserves and their commercial viability; and

(c) what is the outcome of the deep drilling for oil in the above area and its potentialities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Gas was discovered in the wells drilled at Manhara Tibba and Ghotaru in Western Rajasthan.

(b) The total reserves of these two gas fields are estimated at about 540 million cubic metres. The commercial viability of these structures is yet to be established.

(c) ONGC have so far drilled 18 wells of which 5 have proved to be gas bearing. The Jaisalmer Basin in Rajasthan is generally considered prospective for hydrocarbons.

### Import of Pour Point Depressant by ONGC

480. SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Oil and Natural Gas Commission is importing a chemical called Pour Point Depressant;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to explore its availability within the country in view of the large outflow of foreign exchange; and