

Agency, the audited accounts for the accounting period upto 30th June, 1979 were ready in the month of March, 1980 and were approved by the Managing Committee on 17-3-1980. Thereafter, two instalments as indicated in part (b) above were paid.

The Agency has also reported that the Labour Commissioner had extended the date for payment in respect of the accounting period 1978-79, upto 31-5-1980.

(e) Does not arise.

New cooking gas connections

8. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:
SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-
ULLAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to release new cooking gas connections for householders in various parts of the country;

(b) whether any criterion has been laid down to release LPG connections in small towns in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The availability of cooking gas in the country is anticipated to increase progressively from about the beginning of 1981, with the commissioning of:—

(i) Facilities for separation of LPG from Bombay High Associated Gas;

(ii) Mathura Refinery;

(iii) Secondary Processing Facilities at Koyali Refinery.

The release of new gas connections on a large scale will be possible for house-holders in various parts of the country after the completion of the above schemes.

(b) and (c) With the anticipated availability of additional LPG it will be possible to extend marketing of LPG to more locations in the phased manner based on the following considerations:—

(i) Anticipated customer potential;

(ii) Nearness of market from source of supply;

(iii) Maximum utilisation of distribution equipment; and

(iv) viability of operations.

Abolition of Radio Licence fee

9. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:
SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-
ULLAH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 84 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1979 and, state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to abolish licence fee on Radios or Transistors; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Power shortage in the country

10. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-
ULLAH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government anticipate record power shortage in the country in the near future; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to meet the situation?