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adequate arrangements for supply of these products. Besides, they have also been advised to verify the genuineness, antecedents and capabilities of persons/agencies intending to take up activities under the parallel marketing system and to take appropriate action against persons found indulging in fraudulent and unfair trade practices. Public have also been suitably advised and warned through press releases that they must find out the antecedents, genuineness and capabilities of concerned parallel marketeers before entering into any transaction within them. MRTP Commission also takes action against persons/firms/companies indulging in unfair trade practices.

(g) and (h). The private parties are expected to commence activities under parallel marketing system depending on their commercial decision. However, some of the parties have already imported LPG, major portion of which has been sold to bulk consumers.

[Translation]

### Oil Bill

\*3. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA  
CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to reduce the oil import bill;

(b) if so, the achievements made in that direction so far;

(c) the percentage of reduction made in the oil bill during 1993-94 as compared to the previous year; and

(d) the target fixed for 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). The quantum of import of crude oil and petroleum products is determined on the basis of availability of crude oil and products from indigenous sources. Efforts made to reduce the bill are through increased oil production, increased refinery production, conservation of oil products and competitive purchases.

An amount of US \$ 6.958 billion was provided for import of crude oil and petroleum products during the year 1993-94. As against this, the actual import bill for 1993-94 was about US \$ 5.471 billion. The reduction in the oil import bill during 1993-94 as compared with the original approved import bill is estimated at US \$ 1.487 billion.

(c) The oil import bill for 1993-94 is lower by about 10% as compared to the previous year.

(d) Government has approved an import of 24.230 MMT of crude oil and 14.773 MMT of petroleum products for an estimated value of US \$ 5.980 billion for the year 1994-95.

### National Highways

\*4. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and released to Bihar during the last three years for construction, repair and

maintenance of National Highways in the State;

(b) the amount spent by the State Government;

(c) the head-wise amount allocated to the State for 1994-95; and

(d) the National Highways in Bihar likely to be taken up for construction, repair and maintenance during 1994-95

and the total amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The amount allocated and released to Bihar during last three years for construction, repair and maintenance of National Highways and the expenditure incurred by the State Government are as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Development		Maintenance and Repairs	
	Allotment	Expenditure	Allotment	Expenditure
1991-92	1142.00	1292.81	1012.30	1089.73
1992-93	1385.00	1384.91	1072.66	1072.73
1993-94	1920.00	1920.00 (tentative)	1276.45	1276.45 (tentative)

(c) The head-wise details of the amount allocated/released to the State for the year 1994-95 is as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Development Amount allocated	Maintenance Amount released
1994-95	1700.00	581.78 (upto 6/94)

(d) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and funds are allocated state-wise and not national highway-wise. It is

too early to indicate the amount likely to be spent during 1994-95.

#### Post Offices in Rented Buildings

\*5. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many post offices are functioning in rented buildings;

(b) if so, the rent paid during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the various efforts made by the Government for the construction of Post Office buildings; and