

(c) the time by which these are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Doordarshan is exploring the possibility of using the digital compression technology as a Pilot Project to increase its channel capacity beyond its existing thirteen channels to sixty channels. No firm date can be indicated for accomplishing this task.

[Translation]

#### Welfare of Handicapped

\*26. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward a legislation for the welfare of the handicapped;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Government have asked the State Governments to send their opinion in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (e): The Ministry of Welfare has drafted a Bill namely, 'The Persons with Disabilities (Security and Rehabilitation) Bil, 1994. With a view to have wider consultations, it has been circulate for comments to all concerned Central Ministries/Departments, all State Government/Union Territory Administrations and large number of NGOs. So far comments have been received only from State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Manipur and Tripura. It was found from the comments received that there has not been in-depth examination of the draft Bill. Therefore, all State Governments were requested to examine the proposed Legislation keeping in view the financial implications of the proposed legislation. They were also requested to work out the financial implications for their respective States on annual and five year basis keeping in view the magnitude of the problem in the respective States. They have further been requested to examine as to how far the State Governments would be in a position to meet the financial implications to implement the letter and spirit of the proposed legislation, and to carefully scrutinise such provisions in the Bill which might attract adverse criticism if enacted. The comments already received are being examined and based on the examination of comments to be received in the near future and steps will be taken to introduce the Bill in the Parliament.

[English]

#### Petroleum Products

\*27. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Petroleum Conservation Research

Association has developed various methods by which a large quantity of petroleum products can be saved in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt such methods;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the implementation of these methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (e) The estimated annual savings as on 31st March, 1994 on account of various activities undertaken by and through the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) was about 838,500 tonnes of petroleum products worth Rs. 417 crores. The activities of the PCRA, inter alia, are as follows:—

(i) Creation of mass awareness on the benefits and urgency of conserving petroleum products.

(ii) Identification and promotion of measures to curb wastages of petroleum products and wasteful practices, and improvement in the oil use efficiency of the engines, vehicles, processes, appliances, devices by the adoption of improved house-keeping, operational and maintenance practices, improvisation, retrofitting, revamping and technological upgradation.

(iii) Promotion of inter-fuel substitution.

The approved budget of the PCRA for the year 1994-95 is Rs. 8.35 crores.

[Translation]

#### Old Age Homes

\*28. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) The number of old age homes set up so far, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of such homes proposed to be set up during 1994-95;

(c) the proposed locations of these homes; and

(d) the number of aged persons to whom board and lodging facilities are proposed to be provided in such homes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) Statement I indicating State/UT-wise number of such Old Age Homes is attached.