

- (ii) Ex-gratia amount Rs. 10,000/-
 (iii) Amount under Life Cover Scheme Rs. 15,000/-

In addition, employment to one of the dependents of the deceased is also offered. Alternatively, in lieu of employment the widow/female dependent is paid a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- till she attains 60 years of age/dies/remarries, whichever is earlier.

Cash compensation paid to the nominees of 77 victims of Gaslitand and other mines disaster on 26/27.9.95 also include immediate financial assistance of Rs. 1000/- and an additional ex-gratia of Rs. 75,000/- in each case as declared by Minister of Coal. Also, the Central Consultative Committee, a joint forum of Management and Unions has decided to pay Rs. 51,000/- in each case of loss of life.

(d) and (e). In case of all accidents involving loss of lives which occurred in the mines of BCCL on 26/27.9.95, a Court of Inquiry headed by Justice S.K. Mukherjee has been constituted by Government under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952 to enquire into the causes and circumstances attending the accidents. All other accidents involving one or more fatalities are enquired into by DGMS. Action against the persons responsible depends on the outcome of the above inquiries.

(f) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations, directives of DGMS, Expert Committee recommendations as also in the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc. are adopted by the mine managements. For better observance of these steps Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits, workers participation in safety management, tripartite/bipartite reviews at various levels, training and re-training of work persons, observance of safety weeks/safety campaigns and National Safety awards.

[Translation]

India-Oman Gas Pipeline

*68. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA :

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

- (a) whether the work has commenced on India-Oman gas pipeline;
 (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far;
 (c) if not, the reasons for delay; and
 (d) the time by which it is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH

KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (d). In terms of the Agreement on Principal Terms signed with Oman in September, 1994, the Oman Oil Company has taken up the detailed feasibility study for the Oman-India gas Pipeline. The Oman Oil Company has indicated that the first pipeline would be commissioned by mid-1999.

[English]

DD-3 Channel

*69. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether DD-3 channel has been operationalised;
 (b) if so, details thereof; and
 (c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be operationalised ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. While the preview service of this channel started on 3rd September, 1995, it was formally launched on 14th November, 1995. This channel is terrestrially available in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and can be received in other parts of the country via the INSAT 2B satellite. At present it has a single transmission from 6 p.m. to 11.15 p.m., seven days a week. The programmes on this channel complement the programmes on DD 1 and 2. The DD 3 programmes have been designed to reflect the diversity and interests of a wide range of people who have a curious mind.

Basically, the programmes aim to enquire, analyse, excite and provide information through a range of formats which include talks, quiz, drama and documentaries.

- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tada Panel

*70. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether TADA panel has not yet been constituted despite directions of the Supreme Court;
 (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the time by which the TADA panel is likely to be constituted ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). Pursuant to the directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 11.3.1994, in the case of Kartar Singh vs Govt. of Punjab, Review Committees for the Central Government as well as the State/UT Governments have been constituted. They are reviewing the pending TADA cases and redressing the situation wherever considered necessary.