

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). Telecast of programmes by Indian and foreign companies operating independent TV channels is not permitted from Indian soil. However, release of foreign exchange has been granted for the payment of lease charges to hire a transponder on foreign satellite and uplinking facility abroad to the following Indian companies :

(1) M/s BITV, (2) M/s Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd., (3) M/s Udaya TV Pvt. Limited (4) M/s Srishti Video Corp. Ltd. (5) M/s Sumangali Pub. Pvt. Ltd. (6) M/s Asianet. (7) M/s Continental Television Ltd.

(d) Doordarshan is telecasting their programmes through INSAT series of satellites and their external service through transponders hired from PANAMSAT at present.

(e) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to improve the quality/content of programmes to sustain the interest of the viewers.

[Translation]

#### Subsidy on Petroleum Products in Hilly Areas

\*266. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether subsidy is being given on LPG, Kerosene, High Speed Diesel and other petroleum products in hilly areas;

(b) if so, the quantum of subsidy given product-wise during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to withdraw this scheme and introduce a new scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Besides the normal subsidy on LPG, SKO and HSD, Government has decided in 1988 to subsidise the transportation cost for LPG & Kerosene in hilly areas including North-Eastern States. In addition to this, to reduce the high transportation cost for North-Eastern States & Sikkim, a fixed transportation charge is recovered on MS & HSD as against the actual transportation cost. However, in the State of Assam, the prices of these products are determined as in other States of India subject to the condition that such price exclusive of Sales-tax, local levies etc. do not exceed these specified for the State of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur and Nagaland.

(b) The estimated quantum of freight subsidy on Kerosene and LPG (domestic) for North-Eastern States and hilly areas is as follows :

(Rs. Crores)		
	Kerosene	LPG
1992-93	25.72	21.25
1993-94	26.61	25.80
1994-95	27.80	31.19

North-Eastern States are also given freight subsidy on MS and HSD. The estimated amount is as follows:

(Rs. Crores)		
	MS	HSD
1992-93	4.09	11.78
1993-94	4.27	13.97
1994-95	4.55	16.89

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal.

[English]

#### Demand of Petroleum by Enron and Reliance

\*267. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Enron and Reliance have started drawal of petroleum products from Panna and Mukta oil fields even without the finalisation of the terms and conditions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received the final proposals of the Consortium; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### Refinery by Kuwait in Orissa

\*268. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government/Indian Oil Corporation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation for setting up of a refinery in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on the refinery is likely to start and completed?