

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). IOC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on 16.9.1995 for setting up a 6 MMTPA refinery in Eastern India as a joint-venture project. The details, including the completion schedule, of the proposed refinery project, will be decided based on Detailed Feasibility Report. The Government has already accorded stage - I clearance of the project. DFR is likely to be completed by May, 1996.

#### Activities of Extremists

\*269. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :  
SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of incidents of violence by extremists have come to the notice of the Union Government during the last four months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some instances of inter-State links of extremists have also come to the light; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the activities of the extremists?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The number of violent incidents by extremists during the last four months viz. August-November, 1995, was less than those reported during the preceding four months. As against 3406 incidents reported during April-July, 1995, the number of incidents reported for the period August-November, 1995 is 3143.

(c) Inter-State linkages of Sikh terrorists and nexus with other militant subversive groups including Kashmiri and Muslim militants, United Liberation Front of Assam, All Assam Students Union and National Socialist Council of Nagaland have come to notice.

(d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps in this regard. At the Central level, action is taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-extremist operations of different States and to improve flow of information useful for control of terrorist/insurgency activities among the States. Further, help is being provided to the State Governments in terms of financial assistance for modernisation of police, supply of improved weapons, deployment of para-military forces etc. Some specific measures include:

- (i) Setting up of Coordination Committees at the District/Divisional/State level to exchange information, work out strategy and take co-ordinated action against extremist activities.

(ii) Constitution of a Nodal Group in the Ministry where information on the extremist activities is exchanged and transmitted to the State Governments for immediate action.

(iii) Exercise of sharper vigilance in the border areas.

(iv) Setting up of additional (Border Out Posts) with a view to reduce the distance between them.

(v) Fencing and flood-lighting of sensitive areas on the International border.

#### Upgradation of Post Offices

\*270. SHRI PROBIN DEKA :  
SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any criteria have been adopted for upgradation of post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise; and

(c) the details of post offices upgraded during 1994-95 and proposed to be upgraded during 1995-96, separately, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Criteria for upgradation of post offices, category-wise, are given in the attached statement-I.

(c) No Sub Post Office has been upgraded to head post office during 1994-95 and there is no proposal to upgrade any sub post office to head post office during the year 1995-96.

Postal Circle-wise details of extra departmental post offices upgraded during 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the attached Statement-II.

No separate target is fixed for upgradation of extra departmental post offices. Upgradation of extra departmental post offices is accommodated in the Plan for opening of sub offices.

#### STATEMENT-I

#### CRITERIA FOR UPGRADATION OF A SUB POST OFFICE TO HEAD POST OFFICE

A sub post office is upgraded to a head post office if the number of sub post offices under the jurisdiction of its head post office exceeds 60, and Both the parent and the new head post office will have at least 20 sub post offices under their jurisdiction.