

(b) Does not arise.

Public Sector Oil Companies to Reduce their Overhead Expenses

3832. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of oil companies in the public sector which have been indulging in wasteful expenditure;

(b) whether any effort has been made to make it mandatory for oil companies to reduce their over-head and operating expenses;

(c) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (d) Instructions have been issued, from time to time, to all the oil companies in the public sector to effect economy in their operations in all possible areas. Some such steps as advised to them, are reduction in wasteful and avoidable expenditure on items like travelling, overtime allowance, excessive use of vehicles, office expenses, etc., and cost reduction in areas like inventory control, manpower costs, project implementation costs, operations costs and also reduction in cost by adopting value engineering and cost effective state of the art productive technologies.

Telephones to D.E.Ts/D.G.Ms

3833. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of unregistered telephone connections provided to D.E.Ts., D.G.Ms. and General Managers in Delhi both at offices and at their residences;

(b) whether these telephones are always kept busy by adopting one or the other tactice resulting into immense difficulties to the public and even the Members of Parliament to contact them in emergency;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and also the reasons for providing them unregistered telephones in offices and residences; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that these telephones are not misutilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, the total number of unregistered (unlisted) service telephone connections provided to DETs, DGMS and GMS in Delhi both at office and their residence is 168.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Unregistered (unlisted) service telephones are provided to senior officers of MTNL, New Delhi for operational requirements and monitoring of the services by them so that the unlisted service telephones

provided to them are not kept busy facilitating easy accessibility of the officers to general public.

(d) The question does not arise as there is no misutilisation of listed and unlisted service telephones provided to the senior officers of MTNL, New Delhi.

[Translation]

Haldia Barauni Pipeline

3834. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :

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

(a) the reasons for delay in construction of Haldia-Barauni Pipeline for supplying crude oil to Barauni Oil Refinery; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b) IOC has submitted a proposal for laying a crude pipeline from Haldia to Barauni to augment the crude supplies to Barauni Refinery. The proposal is under process for investment approval. The project is expected to be completed within 42 months from the date of Government approval.

[English]

Freedom Fighters Pension

3835. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for grant of freedom fighters pension pending with the Government as on date, State-wise;

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which the above pension cases are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI) : (a) to (c) All timely applications for grant of freedom fighters pension have been considered at least once and appropriate decisions communicated to the applicants. Aggrieved with the decision of the Government regarding rejection of claims, the applicants keep on sending review petitions/representations. If the applicants furnish some additional acceptable documentary evidence along with such review