

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 23.12.96 has directed that the political parties which are recognised as national parties by the Election Commission may be provided government accommodation and the Government should abide, regarding the number, by the advice to be given by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

(b) Sanctions were issued for allotment of 1 type-III and 2 Type-II quarters in favour of Bharatiya Janta Party for its employees on 19.7.95. The sanctions have not been operated due to interim order dated 17.7.95 of the Supreme Court of India.

(c) to (f) In terms of the directions of the Supreme Court of India, revised guidelines for allotment of residential accommodation to the political parties are being framed. The number of residential units to be allotted to the political parties will be decided in consultation with the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Demand of Petroleum

1812. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the measures to check the ever increasing demand of petroleum and petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the areas in the country where the demand of petroleum and petroleum products can be reduced; and

(d) if so, the names of such areas and the percentage of demand of these products in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Fuels including petroleum fuels are a source of energy which is absolutely essential for the growth and sustained economic development. The growth in the GDP implies growth in consumption of energy. The share of petroleum products, i.e., liquid fuels, in the total energy-mix in India is lower than that in the advanced countries. As the country has adopted a higher growth rate of GDP of 7% during the IX Plan, a proportionate growth in the consumption of petroleum products is inevitable.

The demand management of petroleum products will adversely affect the economic growth of the country. However, as the country is not self-sufficient in the

production of oil and is heavily dependent on imports, it is necessary to promote efficient and optimum utilisation of petroleum products. This is sought to be achieved by promoting fuel substitution, regulated supply of products like kerosene, LPG and naphtha influencing demand by pricing mechanism and conservation measures.

[English]

Exploration of Hydrocarbon

1813. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has a plan for conducting any surveys for resuming drilling operations for exploration of hydrocarbon in foothills of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has offered any bids for exploration under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme (1995); and

(d) if so, the bids received by the Government and the names of bidders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a part of exploration, seismic data acquisition is undertaken in Poonch-Kalakot-Rajauri and Najot-Ramnagar areas and 75 GLK in Poonch-Kalakot-Rajauri area and 46 SLK in Najot-Ramnagar have already been acquired so far. Interpretation of seismic data, under acquisition now will be carried out in conjunction with all geological data obtained so far. Any techno-economically viable prospect, if brought out, would be considered for exploratory drilling.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the joint venture exploration programme (1995), two blocks, one completely and other partly falling in the state of J&K in Himalayan foothills were offered for exploration but no bids were received.

[Translation]

Shortage of Power

1814. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Power shortage may accrue Rs. 4,50,000 crore GDP loss" appearing in The Observer dated December 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the details of loss projected by the Government due to shortage of power; and

(e) the remedial measures being contemplated by the Government to check the shortage of power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The rate of growth of GDP depends on a number of factors. Power shortage is one of the several factors which affect the rate of growth of GDP. Shortages are increasing at about 1.5 per cent per annum. Presently, there is an energy shortage of 13 per cent and peaking shortage of 17 per cent. Government is well aware of the need for bridging the gap between demand and supply of power and efforts are being made to maximise generation with the help of better plant utilisation by increasing Plant Load Factor, accelerated Renovation & Modernisation of the existing units and capacity addition programme. Central or the State Governments have not projected the losses due to shortage of power.

Subsidy on Petroleum Products

1815. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHR INAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is providing subsidy on petroleum and petroleum products;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given during each of the last three years on these products;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the subsidy during 1996-97; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The estimated subsidy provided on petroleum products during the last three years and for 1996-97 are as under :

(Rs./Crores)	
Year	Amount
1993-94	6596
1994-95	6560
1995-96	9360
1996-97 (Estimated)	18440

(c) and (d) Subsidy on petroleum products is met through Oil Pool Account mechanism which presently is

having a deficit estimated to be Rs. 15,500 crores by 31.3.97 and its position is being monitored on a continuous basis for remedial measures.

Houses to Homless

1816. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Housing Minister's Conference was held in 1975 and had recommended a number of measures for low cost housing;

(b) if so, the number of conferences which have taken place after 1975;

(c) whether all the recommendations of the Housing Conferences have been implemented;

(d) if not, the number out of them which still remain to be implemented;

(e) the total houses built for the low income group people during the last three years, State-wise;

(f) the number of people of this category still without housing facilities; and

(g) the concrete proposals that the Government propose to undertake to private houses to the low income groups in the country during the Ninth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Conference of State Ministers of Housing and Urban Development held in Bhopal in October, 1975 had interalia made recommendations on the following issues bearing on low cost housing :-

(i) Economy in use of scarce building materials like cement, steel-adoption of Minimum technical specification.

(ii) Investigation for production of cheaper and improved building materials from agriculture and forest wastes for rural construction, and

(iii) Putting up clusters of demonstration of rural houses along with environmental improvements and also model villages.

(b) to (d) After the 1975 Conference, several conferences on State Housing and Urban Development Ministers have been organised. The last such conference