

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Turant telephone lijiye Dalalon Ki Madad se" appearing in the 'Jansatta' dated March 30, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to curb the malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sick Shipping Companies

4643. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revive/close down some of the Government owned chronically sick shipping companies;

(b) if so, the details of the action being taken in regard to each such company separately; and

(c) the details of action proposed to be taken particularly in regard to scindia Steam Navigation Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a). There is no chronically sick Government owned shipping company.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Scindia Steam Navigation is a private company. On its failure to discharge its dues and liabilities, the Government of India has appointed its Board of Directors and also constituted a Sub-Committee of its Directors to effect the sale of non-productive and loss making assets (except fixed assets).

Thermal Power Plant at IB Valley

4644. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations between AES Power Corporation and Orissa State Electricity Board regarding Thermal Power Plant at IB Valley has been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions of the agreements and the steps being taken for its execution; and

(c) if not, the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Most of the issues have been finalised after negotiation with the representatives of AES Trans Power, and the Power Purchase Agreement signed on 9.5.93 between OSEB & IB Valley Power Private Limited, a subsidiary of AES Trans Power. OSEB and AES have recently agreed to an amended Power Purchase Agreement. The amended agreement is being examined by Government of India.

[*Translation*]

STD/ISD/PCOs in Maharashtra

4646. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: