

[English]

Coal-Based Foreign Power Project in Maharashtra

1203. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal-based Power project is proposed to be set up at Chandrapur in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra with the help of foreign Power companies;

(b) whether the Union Government have given clearance to this project; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir. M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Limited and M/s Ispat Alloys Limited of India are proposing to set up a 1084 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant at Bhadravati near Chandrapur of Maharashtra, in collaboration with GEC of UK and EDF of France.

(b) and (c) The promoters are pursuing various clearances required for the project from Central and State agencies. Investment Promotion Cell of Ministry of Power is assisting the promoters in getting the clearances *whenever necessary*.

Private Sector Entry in LPG Marketing

1204. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "private sector entry in LPG marketing resented" appearing in the 'Econom-

ic Times' dated May 21, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the Government of West Bengal has represented to the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) While the Ministry had received a message from the Government of West Bengal in February, 1993, protesting against the introduction of Parallel Marketing of Kerosene and LPG and expressing apprehensions of diversion of kerosene from Public Distribution System (PDS) and subsidised LPG into the open market and requested immediate reversal of the decision, the West Bengal Government in April, 1994 issued orders and guidelines to its officials regarding the implementation of Parallel Marketing System in the State.

Telephone Facility

1205. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the achievement made by the Government in providing telephone facility during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the target for the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI

SUKH RAM): (a) 16.91 lakh telephone connections were provided during Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) The Eighth Five Year Plan of the Department of Telecommunications envisages addition of 75 lakh new telephone connections.

(c) The requirement of funds for the 8th Five Year Plan have been assessed as Rs. 40555 crores to meet this target.

Telephone Revenue Arrears

1206. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN Thorat : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total overdue telephone revenue arrears as on March 31, 1994, State-wise;

(b) the telephone revenue arrears in Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay separately as on March 31, 1994;

(c) whether the position was reviewed by High Level Committee observations made for realisation of revenue;

(d) if so, the details thereof with action taken thereon;

(e) the names of the top ten defaulters and the period from which arrears have not been paid;

(f) the amount waived during 1993-94, State-wise with reasons therefore; and

(g) the major policy decision under consideration of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (g) The information is

being collected and the same will be paid on the Table of the House.

Oil Fields in Maharashtra

1207. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new oil fields found in Maharashtra in 1993-94;

(b) the expected quantity of natural gas and other petroleum products likely to be explored therefrom;

(c) whether there is a proposal to hand over small oil fields to the Maharashtra Government; 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 new oil fields have been found in the state of Maharashtra in 1993-94.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Telecom Network in Metropolitan Cities

1208. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the plan for extension of Telecommunication network in Metropolitan Cities;

(b) the present number of subscribers