

*[Translation]***Rise in Price of Petrol and Diesel**

2733. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which rise in prices of petrol and diesel have been noticed during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme to control the continuous rise in prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). The price of petroleum products are administered by the Government. The ex-storage point price of petrol and diesel has been revised in Sept., 1992 and Feb., 1994 during the last three years and the increase in price is given below :

	Rs./KL	
	Sept. 92	Feb., 94
MS-87	997.10	1000.00
Diesel	997.10	750.00

The prices of petroleum products are fixed taking into consideration various factors like production cost, socio-economic condition etc.

*[English]***New Pipelines**

2734. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :  
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

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

(a) whether the proposal for gas pipelines from Jorhat and crude oil pipeline from Noharkatia to Numaligarh refinery has not been cleared so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to clear the above pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Government has given first stage clearance on 5.12.95 for preparation of Detailed feasibility Report in connection with the proposal of GAIL for construction of gas pipelines for supply of gas to Numaligarh Refinery from Lakwa. For the Jorhat-Numaligarh crude oil pipeline project OIL have been requested to modify and resubmit their proposal, in the light of the latest crude oil production profile for the North-Eastern Region for the period 1996-97 to 2006-07.

**Inclusion of Dalit Christians in SCs List**

2735. SHRI K.M. MATHEW :  
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :  
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :  
SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :  
SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA  
RAO VADDE :  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include the Dalit Christians in the Scheduled Castes List and to accord the status of SCs/STs to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide reservation benefits to Dalit christians and Dalits belonging to other minority communications;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c). The matter relating to inclusion of Christians of Scheduled Caste origin in the list of Scheduled Castes is under the consideration of the Government. In respect of Scheduled Tribes they may profess any religion.

(d) to (f). Reservation benefits as OBCs have already been extended with effect from 8.9.1993 to those sections of the Dalit Christians and Dalits belonging to other minority communications who have been included in the list of Other Backward Classes for the purposes of providing reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services under the Government of India.

**Violation of Human Rights**

2736. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the recently released annual report of Amnesty International, charging the Government and Indian security forces of largescale violation of Human Rights, in detention of thousands of persons without trial for long spells and perpetrating atrocities on undertrials and others in custody;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) to (c). The Government is aware of the annual report of the Amnesty International which pertains to several countries throughout the world released in early July, 1995. The Chapter on India in the said report contains sweeping allegations stating that thousands of political prisoners were held without charge or trial and that torture and ill treatment of detainees in India was routine resulting in deaths of hundreds of these in police and military custody. Amnesty International has been making such wild allegations of a sweeping and generalised nature in their previous reports as well, which all along been firmly denied by the Government. Detailed response rebutting the general allegations made in the Annual Report in question alongwith factual details in respect of some of the specific incidents mentioned therein have been made available to the High Commission of India, London for transmission to Amnesty as well as for appropriate use in countering propaganda by vested interests.

#### Export of Naphtha and NGL

2737. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of naphtha and Natural Gas Liquefied (NGL) exported during each of the last two years and likely to be exported during each the current financial year; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of the above items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) The export of Naphtha and NGL during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April-October) is as under :

Product	(Qty : Million Tonnes)		
	1993-94	1994-95*	1995-96* (Apr.-Oct.)
	Qty.	Qty.	Qty.
Naphtha	1.625	2.249	1.464
NGL	0.782	0.585	0.345

\* Provisional.

(b) After meeting fully the domestic demand, surplus is exported. Therefore, the quantum of exports of Naphtha and NGL depends on domestic supply-demand balance.

[Translation]

#### Fake Notes

2738. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :  
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :  
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recovered large number of fake 500 rupees-notes;

(b) whether any investigation has been carried out in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty;

(d) whether the involvement of some of neighbouring countries is suspected in this fake currency note racket in Indian market; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) According to available information, a total of 201 fake currency notes of Rs. 500 denominations were recovered during this calendar year so far.

(b) and (c). Since 'Police' is a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to register, investigate and take appropriate action under law against persons indulging in any illegal activity.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Apart from continued vigilance in the matter by the concerned Governmental agencies, press releases are issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time to enable the public to distinguish between genuine and fake currency notes.

#### Pending Projects

2739. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :  
SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :  
SHRI KUNJEE LAL :  
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :  
SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the irrigations projects pending with the Union Government for approval including their estimated projected cost and benefits likely to be accrued therefrom State/UT-wise;

(b) since when these projects are pending and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some of the State Governments have requested the Union Government for the early approval of these projects;