

(a) whether oil and gas based power plants are facing severe shortage of oil and natural gas; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the government to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Demand for petroleum products in the power sector is being met in full. As the country is presently deficit in FO, the shortfall is being made up through imports. There is a deficit in the indigenous availability of LSHS also, which is covered by direct import of the product by the power plants under the Parallel Marketing Scheme for their captive consumption.

Around 18.3 MMSCMD of natural gas is currently being supplied to power projects as against the allocation of 20.3 MMSCMD.

The Government has taken the following steps to meet the future requirements of the existing power plants and the new ones in the pipeline :

1. Imports of LSHS and Naphtha have been decanalised to enable interested parties to freely import these products.
2. Furnance Oil (FO) imports have also been allowed against special import licence,
3. In coming years, new refineries will be commissioned to augment the availability of Naphtha, FO/LSHS.
4. The availability of natural gas from domestic sources is being increased by development of new fields and the additional development of some existing fields.

*[Translation]*

#### **Supply of Bitumen in U.P.**

828. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bitumen supplied by the Indian Oil Corporation for construction of the roads in Uttar Pradesh is of inferior quality;

(b) whether complaints have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir. The Bitumen supplied by

the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in Uttar Pradesh meets the IS : 73 - 1961 specification as stipulated in the DGS&D rate contract for bitumen supplies.

(b) and (c). One complaint from M/s. Ircon was received about the quality of bitumen. The samples of the bulk bitumen supplied to the customer were collected from the site and tested meeting the IS: 73-1961 specifications, and the customer was informed accordingly.

*[English]*

#### **C.R.P.F.**

829. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of people were arrested by C.R.P.F. at Siliguri on January 13, 14 and 15, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there people were Indian Nationals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and circumstances and reasons for their arrest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) No arrests were made by the C.R.P.F. at Siliguri on these dates.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### **Telecom Facilities in Inaccessible Areas.**

830. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL ; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in inaccessible areas that require telecommunication facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far to provide telecommunication facilities in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This is an ongoing process aimed at achieving the objectives of National Telecom Policy, which envisages provision of public telephone facility to all the villages of the country, including those in inaccessible areas, by the year 1997 progressively.

(c) As on 29.2.1996, 201840 villages including the villages in inaccessible areas, have been provided telecommunication facilities.

#### **Allocation of Funds for Western Kosi Canal**

831. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be