

BRPL

822. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of profit earned by Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) during the last three years;

(b) whether the company has been rated as excellent by the Government in the MOU during the above period;

(c) whether Disinvestment commission had recommended sale of Government equity in BRPL to a level of 50 percent immediately and 26 percent or below subsequently;

(d) if so, whether the views of the Board of BRPL and the Ministry were also obtained;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether BRPL has expansion programme to execute a Benzine Plant Project as well as Xylene expansion Project on its own; and

(g) if so, the status of the same and the impact of the recommendation of disinvestment on its expansion plan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Year-wise details of profit earned by BRPL during last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Profit before tax (PBT)	Profit after tax(PAT)
1994-95	85.25	61.06
1995-96	120.17	90.15
1996-97	30.54	29.07
Total	235.96	180.28

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Disinvestment Commission in its report Part II of April, 1997 has recommended as follows:

"The Commission recommends that a strategic sale of 50% of shares of BRPL may be offered immediately to Indian or foreign oil companies either on their own or in association with one another.

There could be an agreement with the selected strategic partner specifying further dilution of Government equity to 26% or below through a public offer to Indian Institutions, small investors and employees at a later date."

Disinvestment Commission has also recommended that prior to the strategic sale, the Government should make a policy statement for phasing out of Administered Price Mechanism of all petroleum products within a period of two years.

(d) and (e) BRPL and Ministry officials had periodic discussion with the Disinvestment Commission.

(f) and (g) BRPL is examining the feasibility of setting up these projects. Final decision would depend on the basis of economic viability of these proposed projects.

Allocation to National Literacy Mission

823. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the National Literacy Mission during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the amount released by the Government, till-date; and

(c) the details of new proposals, if any, with the Government for furthering the cause of spreading literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The funds allocated to the National Literacy Mission during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 224.50 crores and Rs. 127 crores respectively.

(b) The amount released since 1996-97 till-date is Rs. 111.56 crores.

(c) The National Literacy Mission aims at achieving Total Literacy in the country through Total and Post Literacy Campaigns which are area-specific, time-bound, outcome oriented and volunteer based. The Campaigns are implemented by the Zilla Saksharata Samitis usually headed by the District Collectors. For effective implementation of the Campaigns, the State Directorates of Adult Education and State Resource Centres are being strengthened. The State Literacy Missions are being empowered to sanction literacy campaigns. The focus has now shifted to bring major Hindi speaking States under the literacy Campaigns.