

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such facilities are proposed to be extended in other big cities also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (d) The public sector oil companies have introduced the credit card facilities in selected retail outlets in the metropolitan cities and other selected cities. The oil companies have tie-ups with Citibank, Bank of Baroda and other banks for this purpose.

#### **Electronic Telephone Exchanges**

822. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of electronic telephone exchanges set up till date, State-wise;

(b) the details of exchanges with STD facility;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up new electronic exchanges with STD facility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House, as soon as available.

#### **Reservation to Disabled Persons**

823. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant reservation to disabled persons in Group 'A' & 'B' posts in Government offices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) and (b) The proposal for providing reservation in Group 'A' and 'B' posts for disabled persons in Government is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Coal Shortage**

824. SHRI M.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power houses were facing serious coal shortage during October, 1995 throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether the situation in Northern States was precarious with power houses having coal stocks for less than 24 hours;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Some power houses in the country, including those in the Northern Region, were having coal stocks for less than 24 hours on some occasions during the month of October, 1995.

(c) The overall coal supplies to the power stations in Northern Region have been more than the target set up for the coal companies for the month of October, 95. These despatches from Coal India Limited sources in the month of October, 1995 to the power houses in Northern Region were 4.45 million tonnes as against a linkage of 4.33 million tonnes for this month. The shortages of coal at some of the power houses can be due to;

(i) Excess consumption of coal as compared to the quantities which the coal companies are required to supply to these power houses.

(ii) Unloading constraints at the power house and.

(iii) Coal supplies being restricted due to non payment of coal sale dues by the power houses.

(iv) Movement constraints of the Railways.

(d) Supply of coal to the power sector is given the highest priority and the same is monitored regularly by an inter-ministerial committee. Appropriate corrective action is taken to step up coal supplies wherever necessary.

[Translation]

#### **Gas Distribution System**

825. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government for setting up of gas distribution system to meet the requirement of small scale industries located in the country particularly in tribal areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the time by which the above system is likely to become operative and the names of the states selected for this purpose; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The Gas Authority of India Limited is taking steps to set up a gas distribution system to meet the requirement of industrial units in the Taj trapezium area. Gas supplies are likely to commence in December, 1996.

#### **Repatriation of Foreign Nationals**

826. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :