

(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 :

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared any comprehensive policy and guidelines for repatriation of foreign nationals; and

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have prepared any comprehensive policy and guidelines for repatriation of foreign nationals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) to (c) The foreigners issue is agitating the attention of the local inhabitants in some of the States of the North East. The legal criteria for identification/detection of foreigners in the North Eastern States, as in the rest of the country, are quite clear. The definition of a foreigner, entry of foreigners into India and their departure therefrom is governed by the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 which are universally applicable in all the States including the North East. However, a special procedure for detection/expulsion of illegal migrants entering Assam on or after 25.3.1971 has been provided under the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983, which came into force in that state on October 15, 1983. Since a foreigner is one who is not a citizen, the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 also apply. In Section 6 A of this Act, special provisions as to the citizenship of persons covered by the Assam Accord have been made for the State of Assam. The Central Government had also issued clear instructions in September, 1972 with regard to illegal migrants from Bangladesh that only those refugees who were forced to leave Bangladesh and take refuge in India after 25.3.1971 would be returned to Bangladesh for re-settlement.

Strength of Rapid Action Force

827. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the present total strength of Rapid Action Force (RAF);

(b) whether this strength is sufficient to tackle the situation;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to increase the strength of RAF; and

(d) if so, when and the extent thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI) : (a) The sanctioned strength of Rapid Action Force is 13,180.

(b) to (d) The areas of responsibility of the existing RAF Bns. cover the entire country, except the North Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, there is a need to raise 2 more RAF Bns. in future.

[English]

Beggars Escaped from Beggars Remand Home

828. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of beggars have escaped from Beggars Remand Home in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Remand Home has degenerated into a den of racketeers;

(d) if so, the action to be taken to check this menace;

(e) whether the condition of the beggars in Beggars Remand Home is pathetic and they are treated as slaves; and

(f) if so, the action taken against the concerned authorities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Government of NCT of Delhi on 1.10.1995, Shri Bappi Shankar alias Shri Bappi Sarkar, inmate of Reception-cum-Classification centre expired suddenly. The death news of the deceased inmate spread among the inmates and triggered off a law and order situation and escape of 10 inmates from Reception-cum-Classification Centre.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir. According to the Government of N.C.T. of Delhi, rounded up beggar inmates are kept in Reception-cum-Classification Centre and are provided with care, protection, boarding and lodging, medical treatment etc. as per rules.

(f) Does not arise.

Production and Supply of Coal

829. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a number of measures to curb misuse and black marketing of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to improve the coal production in the country; and