

**STATEMENT**

<b>1993-94</b>		
	(Rs. in lakhs)	
State	Grant-in-aid	Number of Candidates Trained
Assam	3 173	85
Andhra Pradesh	0.90	25
Maharashtra	1 80	45
Manipur	0.72	25
<b>1994-95</b>		
Assam	5.32	140
Andhra Pradesh	1.936	50
Maharashtra	1.790	50
Bihar	1.00	25
Manipur	2.45	75
<b>1995-96</b>		
Assam	6.564	180
Maharashtra	0.999	25
Tamil Nadu	1.20	30

**Bitumen Scam**

1764. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has called in the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate a bitumen scam involving transport companies, State Government officials and public sector oil companies;

(b) the amount involved in this scam;

(c) the main aspects of the scam and the nature of irregularities which resulted in the loss of crores of Rupees to the State Exchequer;

(d) the reasons for an inequitable distribution of bitumen which led to the distortions in transportation and black marketing of the subsidised product;

(e) the outcome of the investigations made by the C.B.I. so far; and

(f) the remedial measures taken to prevent this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). Based on certain reports from Vigilance set up of the Oil Companies, a special audit was carried out by the Oil Coordination Committee (OCC) and certain irregularities in transportation and distribution of Bitumen in various regions of the country were detected. An involvement of the private transport and State

Government officials and Public Sector Undertakings was suspected and amount involved was considerable. the matter has been referred to CBI for detailed investigation. Special audit report of OCC had indicated that private transporters had claimed payments for transportation of bitumen between various stocking points, which was not actually done. The payment for such claims was made by Oil Companies and reimbursement of the same claimed from the OCC without verification of the actual transportation or otherwise of bitumen.

(d) Bitumen is an allocated product and the State-wise allocation is made by the Central Government based on the assessment of the requirement made by the Oil Companies in consultation with the State Governments and also the historical upliftment of the product by the State Governments.

(e) The report of CBI is awaited.

(f) In order to prevent such scams, the Oil Companies will closely monitor the movement of petroleum products from one location to another.

**Earthquake**

1765. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for setting up of a high level team to enquire into the causes of earth-quake in Talapally Taluks, district Thrissur in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) On receiving the report of tremors in Thrissur area of Kerala, India Meteorological Department investigated the matter through field survey in 1994-95 when a few minor tremors were recorded and the report was sent to State Government for appropriate action. Another party of IMD is now making field survey in Thrissur area for further study.

**Fire in Water**

1766. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned "Fire in Water" appearing in 'The Sunday Observer of Business and politics' New Delhi dated October 6-12, 1996;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the facts of the matter referred to therein; and