

(c) whether the increasing additional demand for electricity could be met in the country as per measures adopted during the previous years;

(d) if not, the gap existed between demand and supply during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 separately;

(e) whether the Government have also made assessment in regard to demand during ensuing years.

(f) if so, the percentage of demand for electricity likely to be increased during the ensuing years of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(g) the steps taken to fill up the gap between demand and supply of Power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The demand of electrical energy during the last four years has increased, over the previous year, at the following rates .

	(% growth)			
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Energy (MU)	5.5	5.9	9.0	10.6

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The overall power availability situation in the country during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, was as under

	(Fig in MU)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Requirement	323252	352260	389721
Availability	299494	327281	354045
Deficit	23758	24979	35676
	(7.3%)	(7.1%)	(9.2%)

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) According to the 14th Electric Power Survey Report, the estimated growth rate in energy requirement and peak load at power station bus-bars in utilities during the 9th Plan would be as under .

	(Percentage growth rate)				
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Energy requirement	7.53	7.49	7.45	7.30	7.17
Peak Load	7.45	7.38	7.33	7.19	7.05

(g) The measures taken to reduce the gap between demand and supply of power include

capacity addition, demand side management measures, renovation and modernisation of existing plants, energy conservation, reduction of T&D losses, effective utilisation of generation by transfer from surplus region to deficit region through inter-regional links.

[English]

#### Telephone Connections

73. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received for opening of STD/ISD, PCO booths in each district of Gujarat during last two years;

(b) the number of applications cleared so far,

(c) the number of applications pending;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early clearance of these applications; and

(e) the number of applicants of SC/ST, ex-servicemen, women and handicapped cleared among them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

#### Cellphone Recovered in Tihar Jail

74. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN  
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ  
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cellphone recovered from Tihar Jail recently;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard and outcome thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of persons found involved in this case and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d). Two cellular phones were recovered from the possession of two accused persons in the Central Jail, Tihar in the month of June, 1996. The accused persons were : (i) Shri Changeiz Khan and (ii) Shri Brij Bhushan Saran Singh. The telephones were sent to the Delhi Police for establishing the identity of their owners and possible linkages with other individuals/groups. One of the telephones was found to be dys-functional.

The subscriber of the other telephone is one Shri Brijesh Singh. The punishment of stoppage of interviews for one month has been recommended for the accused persons from whose possession the telephones were recovered.

#### Southern Gas Grid

75. SHRI SELVARASU M :  
SHRI SAMY. V. ALAGIRI :  
SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for a Southern Gas Grid has been approved in principle by the Government long back.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of the above project; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the implementation of the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU). (a) to (d) The concept of a Southern Gas Grid was approved by the Government in principle in 1992. The Southern States have commissioned a study to ascertain the requirements and locations of gas based units in Southern India. The Government is actively exploring the feasibility of importing natural gas from Oman/Iran and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) at ports in Southern India.

#### Tuberculosis

76. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether Tuberculosis is the most killer disease in India,

(b) if so, the number of persons died due to T.B. during the last three years, State-wise,

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent its further spread, and

(d) the name of the drugs used for the cure of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The TB mortality rate as estimated in various surveys is 50 per one lakh population. Hospital based data relating to deaths is compiled by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence.

(c) To control Tuberculosis, National Tuberculosis Control Programme has been implemented in the

country since 1962 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 50 : 50 sharing basis between the Centre and the States. So far 446 District TB Centres have been established with diagnostic and treatment facilities with the services provided free of cost. To cut short duration of treatment, Short Course Chemotherapy has been introduced in 292 districts. It is proposed to cover the whole country under the programme by 2000 AD.

Following a review of the programme in 1992 a revised strategy has been adopted to strengthen the programme to achieve at least 80% cure rate. The strategy is being tried in 16 project sites with World Bank assistance. The early results of these Pilot Projects have been very encouraging.

This strategy will be extended throughout the country in a phased manner.

(d) Drugs prescribed under the National Tuberculosis Control Programme are Rifampicin, INH, Ethambutol, Pyrazinamide, Streptomycin and Thiacetazone.

#### Export of Hank Yarn

77. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of hank yarn exported during the year 1995,

(b) the limit fixed for export of hank yarn,

(c) the amount as subsidy sanctioned during 1995-96 for production of hank yarn,

(d) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the grievances of weavers due to the scarcity of hank yarn, and

(e) the terms of reference offered to the Miraseth Committee appointed by the Planning Commission to improve the performance of the handloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The hank yarn in count group 1-60s is not permitted to be exported, except under Advance Licensing Scheme. The export figures for hank yarn are not maintained separately.

(c) and (d) Government of India did not provide any subsidy for the production of hank yarn. However subsidy at the rate of Rs. 20/- per kg was allowed to approved handloom agencies on purchase of hank yarn from spinning mills under Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme. Presently there are no reports of scarcity of hank yarn. For maintaining adequate supply of hank yarn to the handloom weavers the Government of India has been enforcing the hank yarn obligation on the mills to pack at least 50% of their yarn of obligatory varieties for civil consumption in the form of hanks. Besides this the Government of India is operating the Mill Gate Price Scheme.