

In 1994-95, we have paid Rs. 641.97 crore and in 1995-96, we have paid Rs. 653.03 crore by way of royalty.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA: It is not paid out of any grace.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The question is not at all relevant to the main question ...(*Interruptions*) If you are not interested, I am not going to say anything.

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you about the royalty given to Andhra Pradesh for the oil found in Krishna-Godavari Basin. Why should they not pay any cess to the concerned panchayat in whose areas the drilling activity is going on?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whether it is relevant.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as Andhra is concerned, in 1993-94 we have paid Rs. 9.99 crore; in 1994-95 we have paid Rs. 10.33 crore and in 1995-96, we have paid Rs. 11.56 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Question Number 62.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translations*]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this question pertains to Assam and Gujarat, I should also be given an opportunity to ask a supplementary question. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Sir, Since this question is important from Gujarat's point of view, we too want to have some information from the hon. Minister ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Growth Rate

*62. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government failed to achieve the target of growth rate during the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard and also to ensure that the shortcomings of last year are not repeated?

[*English*]

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) Growth rate targets are not fixed annually but for the Plan period as a whole. However, the realised growth rate in the last year (1995-96) is 7.1% as per the quick estimates of CSO, which is higher than the Eighth Plan annual average target of 5.6%.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

SHRI RAM NAIK: What is this CSO?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: It is the Central Statistical Organisation.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Even in replies, short forms are used.

MR. SPEAKER: Members are not supposed to know all the abbreviations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part (a) of my question, I had asked whether the Government failed to achieve the target of growth rate during the last year? In reply to this part, the hon. Minister has stated that growth rate targets are not fixed annually but for the plan period as a whole. However the realised growth rate in the last year (1995-96) is 7.1 per cent as per the quick estimates of CSO, which is higher than the Eighth Plan Annual average target of 5.6%. I agree with the hon. Minister on it, but when there is an increase in the growth rate, why the average figure has been presented in a round about manner. Through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what was the target for the growth rate, what was the shortfall, if any, and what were the reasons therefor?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Growth rate targets are not fixed annually. The target is fixed for the Five year plan by the Planning Commission, but the Commission does make some projections. When the plan for 1995-96 for formulated, the Planning Commission had estimated the growth rate to be 5.6 per cent, but the growth rate has been better than that and the actual achievement has been 7.1 per cent. I am replying to it straightaway and not in a round about manner.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: What I want to know from the hon. Minister is whether in the event of non-fulfilment of the target, the Government inquires into the lethargy on the part of the offices? If so, the number of offices against whom action was taken during the last two years?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: As I have already said, there has been no shortfall in the growth rate during the last one year and this year also, the growth rate has been good, but if there is a shortfall in a particular project, as has been stated in the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan, there is a long procedure under which the responsibility of such officers is fixed.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, the confusion arises because of this statement. The growth rate for the last year—if last financial year's reference is made—has not come down. The point is, for the current financial year or the last calendar year, the growth rate has come down a little.

My question can be formulated in this manner. In which sector of industrial production, the growth has declined drastically; and is there any sector in which it has improved, or is even more than that of last year? That is part (a) of my question.

Part (b) of my question is that in the current year, has it happened that because of the fall in the growth rate related to previous financial year, the companies' profits have also declined, or have they grown faster than the growth rate?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chatterjee, everything is available in the Economic Survey which was tabled yesterday. That is why, I do not intend to allow anymore question on this.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Sir, I think, this is a very interesting question because the hon. Member's question relates to this year and not to the last year.

I would like to clarify that this year, the growth rate that the Central Statistical Organization has estimated—which is there in the Economic Survey—is the first estimate which, last year, at this time of the year, was estimated at around 6.2 per cent. So, actually, there is nothing which says that when we come to the final estimates, the estimates will not again change for the better i.e. it may go up. That is number one.

Secondly, as far as the present situation is concerned, I would like to submit for the Member's consideration that the manufacturing sector, as per the data that we have for this year, which is the specific question, upto around October-November, is doing as well as last year. It is the same rate of growth. I mean to say that all this *tamasha* that there is deacceleration is, in fact, wrong.

But it is the electricity sector where the growth rate is lower and that is because, as is well known, we have faced problems. Even distinguished economics like Dr. Manmohan Singh has also said that during the last five years we have not been able to invest as much in power as we should have. But in the Ninth Plan, we are trying to correct it.

So, it is not that the manufacturing sector's growth has gone down over the last year. The manufacturing sector's growth rate this year is as much as it was last year.

The capital goods sector is better. There are some marginal revisions. But I would submit to the hon. Members that let us wait for the balanced final statistics because there is always seasonality in sectors. So, let us wait for that until we arrive at a final decision.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: In relation to companies' profits, we do not have the data right now. This data normally is brought out by the Reserve Bank Sample Survey and the Central Statistical Organization looks at it after the end of the year because of the balance sheets ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please read that Survey and make an effective contribution during the debate on the Budget.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

+
*63. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA':
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for providing LPG connections in hilly districts of the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to allot LPG connections in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh on preferential basis as there has been increasing use of firewood there;

(c) if so, the number of connections provided in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have also decided to cut 50% LPG connections to these areas from August, 1996;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the remedial measures taken to remove resentment among these people?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government advised the Public Sector Oil Companies to release LPG connections to the applicants in hilly areas located at an altitude of 2000 ft. and above all over the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh, on demand from 1.4.1996.

(b) The Government has accorded priority in the release of LPG connections to the hilly areas for the preservation of the forests. Accordingly, the hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh are getting preference in release of LPG connections.

(c) The number of LPG connections released in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is given below.

YEAR	ENROLMENT (Lakhs)
1993-94	0.41
1994-95	0.61
1995-96	0.90
1996-97 (April-Dec., 96)	0.49