

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. Doda		8177	7867	10127	22077	20110	22484
7. Anantnag		29943	20665	37008	2106	1634	2232
8. Pulwama		15879	12186	26536	853	877	1659
9. Badgam		10251	7882	20421	2500	1134	3791
10. Srinagar		34736	46575	65275	4009	2460	3734
11. Baramula		22224	17088	35400	2690	1400	3177
12. Kupwara		19666	16138	24579	2684	1243	619
13. Leh		3786	4100	3800	3947	3754	4195
14. Kargil		4440	4770	4600	4563	5301	5062

[Translation]

Per Capita Income

858. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has not been increase in the per capita average annual income in the country over the years;

(b) if so, the per-capita income in the country during 1991-92;

(c) the estimated per-capita income in the country by the end of 1995-96; and

(d) the estimated per-capita average annual income in the country likely to be by the end of 2000?

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) The per capita income has steadily been growing over the years.

(b) Rs. 2175 at constant (1980-81) prices.

(c) Rs. 2506 at constant (1980-81) prices.

(d) Such estimates will be prepared for the targets of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Release of Hostages

859. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) when the foreign tourists were kidnapped by Al-Faran outfit of militants in Kashmir including their names and the steps taken for their release;

(b) whether the persons have been identified who had abducted those foreign tourists;

(c) whether any contact was established with the abductors and demands made by them for release of abducted tourists;

(d) when the last contact was established with abductors/tourist;

(e) the details of hostages killed;

(f) whether the help of some foreign agencies was sought to secure the release these hostages and the outcome thereof; and

(g) the place where the Al-Faran headquarters is located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S R BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (g). Six foreign tourists viz Paul Wells, Kieth Mangan, John Childs, Donald Hutchings, Dirk Hassert and Hans Christian Ostro were kidnapped on 4-8 July, 1995 in Pahalgam area of Jammu and Kashmir. One of them, John Childs managed to escape on 10 July, while another, Hans Christian Ostro was brutally killed by the kidnappers on 12 August, 1995. The whereabouts of the remaining four hostages are unknown. Ever since the kidnapping took place, intensive efforts were made to try and locate their whereabouts and to secure their safe release. However, the Government refrained from taking any precipitate action which could have jeopardised the lives of the hostages. The Government followed the approach of dialogue and persuasion to prevail upon the abductors to release the hostages without bringing any harm to them. In this process indirect contacts were also established with representatives of the abductors on several occasions between the date of kidnapping and the end of November 1995, after which there have been no contacts. During these contacts efforts were made to prevail upon the abductors to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds and to desist from bringing any harm upon them. Humanitarian appeals by the Government, International and National Human Rights Organisations, local Organisations in the State, Governments of the concerned countries and the

families of the hostages were also issued, and the act of abduction was uniformly condemned.

2. As part of the policy of transparency, and with the aim of making a joint effort to secure the release of the hostages, right from the beginning, the Government maintained close and continuous contact with the diplomatic representatives of the countries whose nationals have been abducted, Experts from these countries were also associated from time to time in this process. This mutual consultation, cooperation and interaction continues.

3. The abductors claiming to belong to a group called AL Faran had demanded the release of 22 named and unnamed militants, including a number of Pakistan Nationals/residents of POK who are important/activists of the Pakistan based international Terrorist Group, the Harkat-ul-Ansar. The so-called Al-Faran group has not been heard of before, and all the available information clearly indicates that it is nothing but a front of the Harkat-ul-Ansar. Action has also been taken through diplomatic channels to prevail upon the Government in Pakistan to use their influence to secure the release of the hostages. At the same time efforts are continuing to identify the individuals who perpetrated the abduction and to locate the hostages as well as the abductors.

Natural Gas

860 SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilised currently in Gujarat State;

(b) the quantity of gas flaring up every day in the State; and

(c) the quantity of gas being processed into LPG and the plan for increasing LPG production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) Around 15.5 MMSCMD of gas is currently being utilised in Gujarat.

(b) 0.84 MMSCMD of gas is currently being flared in Gujarat.

(c) At present around 7 MMSCMD of gas is being processed for LPG extraction in Gujarat. GAIL has proposed setting up a new 370,000 MTPA LPG plant at Gandhar

Mineral Deposits

861 DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state

(a) whether sea-floor hydro thermal system of mineral deposits has been discovered near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, whether these deposits are rich in vast mineral resources, rich in platinum, gold, silver and other metals; and

(c) the steps so far taken/proposed to be taken to develop and exploit the resources and the results thereof?

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) Surveys carried out by the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa have identified hydro thermal activity near the Andaman Nicobar Islands.

(b) While the hydro thermal activity is conducive to the formulation of deposits rich in metals like platinum, gold, silver etc., NIO is conducting surveys to locate such deposits.

(c) Government is putting together an inter-departmental programme for detailed exploration of the hydro thermal activity areas.

[Translation]

LPG Misuse

862. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether petromax (gas lantern) are being sold on a large scale in the country thereby encouraging the black-marketing of LPG;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to check the illegal sale of these petromax;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d). During February 1993, Government had permitted, under the parallel marketing scheme, private entrepreneurs to import and market LPG at market determined prices through their own network. No complaint has been received regarding diversion of LPG from Public Sector Oil Companies for use in Petromax (gas lanterns). However, oil companies regularly conduct inspections of their distributors at various levels. If any distributor is found diverting domestic LPG for any other purpose, action is initiated under Marketing Discipline Guidelines against the erring distributor.

However, it is understood that some private sector companies are selling petromaxes, based on different petroleum fuels, for which they may have obtained necessary approval from concerned authorities.