

(e) and (f) A group of workmen employed in the production department of this unit formed a new union in the name of Hindustan Insecticides Production Thozhilali Union vide registration No. 07-58-97, and approached the Management for recognition in January, 1998. The request was considered by the Management and the so called union was informed that it cannot be recognised as it is a craft union representing a group of workmen employed in the production department only and three registered trade unions affiliated to CITU, INTUC and BMS are already representing the workers. A petition (O.P. No. 7937 of 1998-G) was also filed on this issue by Hindustan Insecticides Production Thozhilali Union in the High Court of Kerala, which was dismissed on 15th July, 1988.

(g) 717 (Employees covered under ID Act-Workmen-598).

Petroleum Products

3715. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay fixed for petroleum sector for Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the estimated demand for petroleum products in that plan period;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the increasing deficit of petroleum products in the country; and

(d) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken to reduce the deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) Planning Commission has indicated an outlay of Rs. 78401 crores for Petroleum Sector.

(b) to (d) Demand of petroleum products is projected to increase 113 MMT by the end of IXth Plan. To meet this growing demand, steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, better understanding of reservoir behaviour, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and

private capital in the upstream sector. The refining capacity is also being increased in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector.

[Translation]

Official Secret Act, 1923

3716. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA:
DR. V. SAROJA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to scrap the Official Secret Act, 1923 so as to bring transparency in the transaction of its business;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the issue relating to amendments to the Official Secrets Act, 1923, is clubbed with the formulation of Freedom of Information Bill which is under examination of the Government.

[English]

Performance of IOC

3717. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the refining capacity and the actual performance of Indian Oil Corporation during the last three years;

(b) the operating target set by the IOC for 1997-98; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to monitor closely all the projects for optimum capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The information is as under:—

Year	Capacity MMT	Actual MMT	% Cap. Utilisation
1995-96	24.400	25.636	105.1
1996-97	24.400	25.136	103.0
1997-98	25.400	27.504	108.3

(b) Refinery-wise MOU crude throughput target of IOC set for 1997-98 was as under

(Figures in thousand tonnes)

Refinery	MOU Crude t'put target 1997-98
Guwahati	900
Barauni	1950
Gujarat	9800
Haldia	4100
Mathura	8000
Dighoi	550
Panipat	100
IOC Total	25400

(c) Overall capacity utilisation for IOCL was higher than 100% during last three years.

Terrorist Activities of ULFA

3718. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist activities of ULFA are increasing in Assam;

(b) if so, whether ICO high speed diesel pipeline at Lakhpathar in Uppar Assam has been blown up recently by ULFA on the observation of protest day;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether security-men of Central Industrial Security Force were also ambushed near Doba tea estate in Sibsagar district recently;

(e) if so, the steps taken to combat terrorist and insurgent activities in Assam;

(f) whether any blueprint of action plan has been prepared for execution; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The violence by ULFA in Assam has been by and large at the same level as the previous year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. ULFA blew up an oil pipeline in Lakhpathar area of Dibrugarh District on Nov. 26, 1998 damaging the pipeline used for bringing processed oil from Digboi Refinery to Tinsukia storage centre.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) to (g) The activities of ULFA and other militant organisations are closely monitored. Steps taken/initiated to combat terrorist and insurgent activities in Assam include, *inter-alia*, deployment of Army and Central Para-Military Forces; most seriously affected areas being notified as "disturbed area"; secessionists/extremist/militant groups being banned, and strengthening and upgradation of the intelligence machinery. Assistance has also been provided for modernisation of State Police in the region.

Expert Group on Consumer Protection Act, 1986

3719. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI RAJBANSHI MAHTO:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5980 on July 28, 1998 regarding recommendation of Expert Group on Consumer Protection Act, 1986:

(a) whether the Government have since examined the recommendations of the Expert-Group to revise the Consumers Protection Act, 1986;