

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For Mumbai and Delhi, MTNL/VSNL are the Government Internet Service Providers, whereas for Calcutta and Chennai, VSNL is the Government Service Provider.

Internet connections are presently being provided by VSNL on demand at all the four Metropolitan cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta, and by MTNL in Mumbai and Delhi.

MTNL has recently started Internet Service at Delhi and Mumbai with a capacity of 5000 customers each. To cater growing demand, MTNL is planning to expand Internet Services from 5000 to 20,000 subscribers each in Mumbai and Delhi.

Government has also awarded a large number of licences to the private ISPs who can also provide Internet connections in these Metropolitan Cities.

Oil Pool Account

2866. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the accumulated amount lying in the oil pool account;

(b) whether the Government intend to cover up revenue shortfall from oil pool account;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which the pool account has been build up due to fall in international prices of the oil;

(e) whether the Oil Coordination Committee and the Oil Corporates have suggested to make the operation of the oil pool account free in the interest of the consumers;

(f) if so, whether the Government intend to bring out a detailed statement on the position of the oil pool account once a year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) With a view to contain the deficit in the Oil Pool Account and to enable the Oil Companies to maintain uninterrupted supplies of petroleum products in the country; the Government announced a comprehensive package on September 1, 1997. To end the oil pool deficit, the Government had decided that part of the

liabilities of the Oil Coordination Committee to the Oil Companies shall be cleared through issue of Special Government Bonds by making one time payment to the Oil Companies. Consequently, "10.5% Oil Companies (Non-Transferable) Special Government Bonds 2005" totaling to Rs. 12,984 crores were issued effective 02.03.98. Out of these bonds issued, an amount of Rs. 6382 crores has been sanctioned for redemption of Bonds. Thereafter, "On Account" payment of Rs.1646 crores have been made till 28.02.99.

(e) to (g) The Annual OCC Accounts including the Pool Accounts are audited by independent firm of Chartered Accountants appointed by Apex Body on the advice of Comptroller & Auditor General of India. Thereafter the accounts are approved by Apex Body of OCC.

[Translation]

Loss due to Demurrage Claims

2867. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been incurring huge loss due to demurrage claim submitted by ship owners at various Indian Ports ;

(b) if so, the extent of loss (in foreign exchange) incurred during the last three years, year-wise ;

(c) the present position in this regard ; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the loss for upgradation and expansion of ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. No such demurrage claims by ship-owners have been submitted to the Indian Ports.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Special Courts

2868. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
DR. SUSHIL INDORA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the special courts especially for trying corruption cases against some public figures have been set up in the country during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of cases transferred back from these courts to regular courts alongwith the reasons therefor during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Constitution of Committees/Boards for Allotment of Petrol Pump and LPG Agencies

2869 SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Boards/Committees constituted for the allotment of Petrol Pumps and Gas Agencies by the Government;

(b) whether the Government have provided adequate representation to the persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in these Boards/ committees; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) as per existing policy, selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products is made by the Dealer Selection Boards. Composition of these Boards is as under :

- | | | |
|-------|--|----------|
| (i) | Retired Judge of High Court or retired District Judge. | Chairman |
| (ii) | An Officer not below the rank of Chief Manager of one/concerned Oil Company. | Member |
| (iii) | An Officer of the rank of Chief Manager of another Oil Company | Member |

Member are nominated by the Director (Marketing) or Executive Director of the oil companies not before three days of the interviews.

53 Dealer Selection Boards have been constituted.

There is no specific provision for nomination of SC/ST members on these Boards. Non-officials have not been appointed on these Boards.

Export of Petroleum Products

2870. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to export the refined petroleum products by the year 2000; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The export of petroleum products by the year 2000 would, inter alia, depend upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the prevailing market condition.

[Translation]

Attractive Schemes Introduced by B.P.C.

2871. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has introduced attractive schemes for the customers at its international petrol outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof, place-wise;

(c) whether some schemes are proposed to be introduced in different parts of the country as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) As per Corporation's policy, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has been introducing various 'Sales Promotion Schemes' for its customers from time to time at its retail outlets including new generation retail outlets (NGROs). During Christmas/New year time in 1998 BPCL introduced a promotion scheme for the 'convenience store' customers in its 18 Retail Outlets spread over 13 cities in the country as per detail given below:

City	No of Retail Outlets
Delhi	3
Chandigarh	1
Kanpur	1
Agra	1
Udaipur	1
Mumbai	2
Nagpur	2
Indore	1
Goa	1
Chennai	2
Bangalore	1
Hyderabad	1
Coimbatore	1