

- (iv) Obtaining the services of international experts wherever considered necessary.
- (v) Encouraging the participation of private/joint venture companies in the oil exploration and development programmes.
- (vi) Maintenance of reservoir health through workover operations, pressure maintenance methods/stimulation/artificial lift operations.
- (vii) Enhancing exploration efforts through 'Accelerated Programme of Exploration' (APEX) launched in 1994.

Distribution and Transmission Losses

*210. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing Transmission and Distribution losses in the country;

(b) if so, various factors leading to the Transmission and Distribution losses;

(c) the average T&D losses in the country during last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the losses and to improve the situation ?

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) Yes, Sir, Government is aware of the high level of T&D losses in the country. However, a reduction of about 2% in the T&D losses has been achieved during the first 3 years of the VIII Plan.

(b) T&D losses in the system occur due to a variety of technical & commercial reasons. The technical losses are caused by energy dissipation in the conductors and equipment used for transformation, transportation and distribution of power, inadequate Transmission & Distribution network. Commercial losses are caused by pilferage of energy, metering related errors, unmetered supply etc.

(c) T&D losses as a percentage of energy available for supply for the years 1991-92 to 1993-94 are given below :

1991-92	22.83%
1992-93	21.80%
1993-94	21.41%
1994-95	20.85% (Provisional)

(d) Power distribution falls within the purview of State Governments and SEBs. Electricity Departments are responsible to take necessary steps for reduction of losses. However, the Government has advised the utilities to improve their T&D system through a variety of short terms & long term measures, install capacitors

for reactive compensation, carry out energy audits to pinpoint system-elements responsible for high losses, control theft and take suitable other measures for reduction of T&D losses.

IRS-1C Satellite

*221. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IRS-1C Satellite has been put to optimum use and is functioning well;

(b) if so, the information/data received from three sensors;

(c) whether these data/information have been passed on to all the user agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The IRS-1C satellite provides data from its 3 cameras as follow :

- * Linear Imaging Self-Scanner (LISS-3) provides data in visible, and near-Intra Red spectral bands with spatial resolution of around 23.5 metres as well as in Short Wave IR (SWIR) band with a resolution of around 70 metres. The sensor provides data with a swath of 141 kms covering the entire country every 24 days.

The data from LISS-3 is used for generating information related to Crop acreage and production estimation, land and water resources management, forest monitoring, landuse planning, etc.

- * Panchromatic (PAN) Camera provides data with a resolution of 5.8 metres and a swath of 70 kms. The PAN Camera also has stereo viewing capability with a revisit capability of every 5 days.

Data from PAN is used for getting information for urban planning, land and water resources planning, cartography, etc. to scales of around 1:12,500 and to generate digital elevation information required for micro-level planning.

- * Wide-Field Sensor (WiFS) provides data in visible and near-IR region with a spatial resolution of 188 metres and a wide swath of around 810 kms. WiFS data covers the whole country every five days. The data from WiFS is used for generating information related to monitoring of crop status and

growth profile, drought, assessment, floods mapping, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. The IRS-1C data/information is supplied by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad to various remote sensing data users in the Central and State departments as well as to State remote sensing centres, academic institutions, public and private sectors. Besides, under an agreement between ANTRIX Corporation of Department of Space and EOSAT Company of USA, Ground Stations in USA and Germany have been equipped to receive and disseminate IRS-1C data for users in Northern America and Europe respectively.

(d) The data/information are being used by various users for several remote sensing application projects in the country, under the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) of Department of Space in coordination with Central and State user departments. The highlights of the major application projects are the following :

Mapping the type and extent of wastelands at micro-level,

Mapping of landuse/cover,

Soil mapping,

Preparation of hydrogeomorphological maps for identifying ground water prospect zones,

Monitoring of agricultural drought at district level,

Mapping of type and extent of forest cover,

Pre-harvest crop acreage and production estimation for major crops,

Near real-time mapping of flood inundation and damage assessment for major floods, Geological mapping for mineral prognostics

• Preparation of coastal zone maps.

Monitoring of command areas for improved irrigation management,

Urban Planning,

Environmental Impact assessment,

Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development to arrive at local specific developmental plans for land and water resources.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

*212. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed by the Government for releasing the LPG connections by the year 1996-97;

(b) whether the procedure started recently to release new LPG connections to the wait listed persons all over the country has been suspended for indefinite period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the present policy regarding release of LPG connections ?

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

(a) The target for releasing LPG connections during 1996-97 has not been finalised so far. However, the Government has approved adhoc enrolment of 6 lakh new LPG customers during the first quarter of 1996-97 and proposes to enrol a total of 20 lakh new LPG customers during 1996-97.

(b) and (c). Due to increased demand and expected lower product inventories in the coming peak season during 1996-97, it has been decided to put on hold any new LPG enrolment w.e.f. 1.7.1996 temporarily till such time new LPG import facilities at Kandla and Mangalore are commissioned and stabilised. However, new LPG enrolment would continue for the priority categories like Taj Trapezium area, Hilly markets, releases under Tatkal scheme and against MP/Government priorities, priorities of PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the distributors to be newly commissioned. After commissioning of new import facilities at Mangalore and Kandla in October, 1996, there will be enhanced enrolment of customers through increased imports of LPG.

(d) New LPG connections are released, in a phased manner, throughout the country, depending upon the availability of LPG, total new customer enrolment, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability.

[English]

Retirement Gratuity

*213. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have raised the ceiling on the maximum amount of retirement gratuity/death gratuity from Rs. 1 Lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakh under the Central Civil Services (Pension), 1992;

(b) if so, the date from which it has been given effect to and the basis thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the same benefits to public sector undertakings/corporations ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.