

tive of quantum of credit involved, if the arrangement suits the borrower and the financing banks.

(ii) Banks have been given full operational freedom in assessing the working capital requirements of borrowers. Accordingly, banks are now free to evolve their own methods of assessing the working capital requirements of borrowers within the prudential guidelines and exposure norms, already prescribed. The loan policy in respect of each broad category of industry shall be laid down by every bank with the approval of its Board of Directors. All earlier instructions relating to maximum permissible bank finance have been withdrawn.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that there is no proposal at present to review the guidelines issued by it for financing small traders by commercial banks under priority sector lending. As regards medium traders, as part of monetary and credit policy measures announced by RBI on April 15, 1997, banks are free to evolve their own methods/norms for assessing the working capital requirement of medium traders, within the prudential guidelines and exposure norms.

[*Translation*]

Consumption of Petroleum Products

*548. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and consumption of Petrol and petroleum products by each of the vital sectors in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the consumption has rapidly increased during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons for the increase;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curtail

consumption of petrol and petroleum products in each of the vital sectors; and

(e) the success achieved in conservation of petrol and petroleum products in monetary terms during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) The sector-wise consumption of major petroleum products during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April-January) is given in the attached Statement.

(b) and (c) The consumption of petroleum products increased during the above period. This is mainly due to increase in the economic activities of the country in various sectors including industry, transport, etc.

(d) Curbing the consumption of petroleum products would have an adverse impact on the growth of the economy of the Country.

The Government have initiated various steps to promote conservation of petroleum products in the transport, industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors. These include adoption of measures and practices which are conducive to increase fuel efficiency and training programme in the transport sector, modernisation of boilers, furnaces and other oil operated equipments with efficient ones and promotion of fuel efficient practices and equipment in the industrial sector; standardisation of fuel efficient irrigation pumpsets and rectification of existing pumpsets to make them more energy efficient in the agricultural sector and development as well as promotion of the use of fuel efficient equipment and appliances like kerosene and LPG stoves in the household sector.

(d) As a result of various measures taken for conservation of petroleum products, an estimated saving of Rs. 838 crores, Rs. 969 crores and Rs. 1102 crores was achieved during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

Statement

Demand/Consumption of Petrol and Petroleum Products

('000' Tonnes)

Year	Consumption	Total % Growth	Petrol	% Growth
1993-94	60812	-	3834	-
1994-95	65487	7.7	4141	8.0
1995-96	72569	10.8	4679	13.0
1996-97*	77219	6.4	4980	6.4

* : Provisional.

Note : It is presumed that the total petrol is being consumed by transport sector only.

Sector-wise Consumption of Major Petroleum Products

('000' Tonnes)

Sector	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97* (Apl.-Jan)	Growth Rate(%)	
					1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
L.P.GAS						
1. Domestic	2423	2762	3053	2678	14.0	10.5
2. Commercial/Industry	635	654	736	624	3.0	12.5
3. Others	55	18	60	50	-67.3	233.3
TOTAL: (1+2+3)	<u>3113</u>	<u>3434</u>	<u>3849</u>	<u>3352</u>	<u>10.3</u>	<u>12.1</u>
NAPHTHA						
1. Fertilizers	2172	2495	2669	1953	14.9	7.0
2. Petrochemicals	1013	831	959	967	-18.0	15.4
3. Others	6	74	41	30	1133.3	-44.6
TOTAL: (1+2+3)	<u>3191</u>	<u>3400</u>	<u>3669</u>	<u>2950</u>	<u>6.5</u>	<u>7.9</u>
H.S.D.O.						
1. Transport	23059	24742	28034	24348	7.3	13.3
2. Plantation/Food	494	621	789	446	25.7	27.1
3. Power Generation (Utilities)	115	229	167	157	99.1	-27.1
4. Industry	1512	1783	2386	2087	17.9	33.8
5. Misc. Services	698	886	878	719	26.9	-0.9
TOTAL: (1+2+3+4+5)	<u>25878</u>	<u>28261</u>	<u>32254</u>	<u>27757</u>	<u>9.2</u>	<u>14.1</u>
L.D.O. (REGULAR)						
1. Transport	82	83	272	191	1.2	227.7
2. Plantation/Food	36	35	41	28	-2.8	17.1
3. Power Generation (Utilities)	182	165	166	148	-9.3	0.6
4. Industry	625	641	700	513	2.6	9.2
5. Misc. Services	437	441	128	93	0.9	-71.0
TOTAL: (1+2+3+4+5)	<u>1362</u>	<u>1365</u>	<u>1307</u>	<u>973</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>-4.2</u>
F.O. (REGULAR)						
1. Transport	405	440	321	236	8.6	-27.0
2. Plantation/Food	186	188	214	199	1.1	13.8
3. Power Generation (Utilities)	490	580	720	618	18.4	24.1
4. Industry	3603	3944	4836	3693	9.5	22.6
5. Misc. Services	342	685	405	322	100.3	-40.9
TOTAL: (1+2+3+4+5):	<u>5026</u>	<u>5837</u>	<u>6496</u>	<u>5088</u>	<u>16.1</u>	<u>11.3</u>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
LSHS/HHS.						
1. Transport	12	2	3	3	-83.3	50.0
2. Plantation/Food	40	27	32	20	-32.5	18.5
3. Power Generation (Utilities)	1676	1624	1747	1340	-3.1	7.6
4. Industry	2366	2258	2246	1962	-4.6	-0.5
5. Misc. Services	72	141	161	138	95.8	14.2
TOTAL: (1+2+3+4+5)	4166	4052	4189	3463	-2.7	3.4

* Provisional

*[English]***Brain Drain**

*549. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA:

SHRI L. RAMANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a marked increase in the flight of middle-level and experienced personnel from Indian Space Research Organisation to foreign countries and private organisations;

(b) if so, the number of such personnel who resigned during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to check this brain drain and the position of filling up posts becoming thus available so that the programme and activities of Indian Space Research Organisation do not suffer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Scientists/Engineers leaving Indian Space Research Organisation is not a totally new phenomenon as there have been resignations in the past also. However, in the recent past, there has been an increase in the number of persons leaving the organisation. Personal reasons have been cited by the persons, while leaving the organisation.

(b) The number of Scientists/Engineers who have resigned during the last 3 years is given below:

1994	—	59
1995	—	114
1996	—	142

(c) Increased housing facilities, further opportunities for academic and related activities including further studies, enhancement of interface between Scientists and industry are among the steps proposed to check the brain drain. The posts vacated by them are being filled based on the assessment of programmatic requirements.

Auction of Papers of Mahatma Gandhi

*550. SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the question raised in the British House of Commons sometimes in November, 1995 by the convenor of Indo-British Parliamentary Forum, as reported in Hindu dated 9.11.96, to ban the auction of papers of Mahatma Gandhi by Phillips auctioneers and to return them to the 'Navjeevan Trust' set up by Mahatma Gandhi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to retrieve these valuable papers for return to the Navjeevan Trust ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Foreign Debt**

*551. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign debt on the country as on March 31, 1997, Country-wise and agency-wise;

(b) the per capita foreign debt of the country as on March 31, 1997;

(c) the amount of interest paid during each of the last three years upto March 31, 1997;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to reduce the burden of foreign debt of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?