

5,700 crores as on 31.3.96 are estimated to rise to Rs. 15,500 crores by 31.3.97 are as under :

	Rs./Crores
IOC	9,000
HPCL	1,800
BPCL	1,300
MRL	330
CRL	320
BRPL	100
IBP	140
ONGC	1,800
MRPL & Others	710

To tide over the situation, the oil companies have to borrow huge amounts from the market at commercial rate of interest. The position of the oil pool account is being monitored on a continuous basis and remedial measures taken to contain the deficit.

[Translation]

Private Sector in Civic Amenities

57. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister for Urban Affairs and Employment made a statement in a seminar held in Delhi on September 24, 1996 that the Urban Affairs Ministry is considering to enact a law to ensure private participation in improving civic amenities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, as per the policy of the Government to encourage private investment in infrastructural projects, it has been stated in various form that the scope for private sector participation/investments in various infrastructural activities like water supply, sanitation and housing would be explored.

[English]

CNG Kit

58. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India had directed that all Government petrol vehicles be provided with catalytic converters for use of unleaded fuel or by CNG kit for use of natural gas as automotive fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the measures taken to create CNG fuelling facility for Government petrol vehicles; and

(d) the time by which the CNG fuelling facility is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the Supreme Court directive dated 9th May, 1996, 1959 four wheeled petrol driven Government vehicles belonging to various Ministries/Departments, their attached and subordinate offices have been identified for conversion into CNG/Catalytic converter operation. Till 31st October, 1996, 634 vehicles have been converted to CNG operation, 363 vehicles have been converted to catalytic converter operation and 312 vehicles have been scrapped.

(c) and (d). CNG refuelling facilities are already available in Delhi.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries

59. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food processing industries are running in losses;

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

(c) the reasons for their running in losses; and

(d) the details of the preventive steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (d). Since food processing industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information in regard to the number of food processing industries, as also those which are suffering losses, is not maintained centrally. Units which are sick can approach Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for revival/closing down.

[English]

Leasing of Transponders

60. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Telecommunication Satellite organisation (INTELSAT) has entered into agreement with for leasing transponders from India's INSAT 2 E on a commercial basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and