

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The proposals for improvement of Bhairon ghat of Manpur and Bakaner ghat are included in the annual plan 1999-2000.

[*English*]

Bitumen Drum Filling Factories

889. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up Bitumen Drum filling factory in Baroda;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Government have also permitted the private sector companies to set up Bitumen Drum filling factories;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any difference between the cost of Bitumen Drum filling in Government factories and the private sector factories and if so, the extent thereof and reasons therefor;

(f) whether some more factories are being set up with Government expenditure;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the utility of setting up of such factories in the public sector;

(h) whether the Government propose to reconsider the setting up of such factories in view of the cost viability and other factors and if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (i) Government has not set up bitumen drum filling factory at Baroda. However, a bitumen drum filling plant has been set up by Indian Oil Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking in 1978-79. A drum filling plant is being set up by IOC at Panipat. Bitumen is a decontrolled product now and its import/export and marketing is permitted to any individual. Most of the refineries have drum filling plants. In view of the temporary closure of IOC's Mathura Refinery bitumen packaging facilities, IOC is meeting its requirements through another PSU, M/s. Balmer Lawrie,

Calcutta, and private packaging units at Kosi Kalan and Chennai. The cost of private packaging is generally more economical than the cost of packaging in public sector refinery. The public sector oil companies have the freedom to arrange packaging either within their own refinery or through private sector.

Environment Laws

890. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:
SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Union Government to amend the environment laws; and

(b) if so, the details of observations made by the Court about the environmental laws in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated January 27, 1999 in respect of civil appeal Nos. 368-371 of 1999 arising out of SLP (C) Nos. 10317-10320 of 1998 has observed that "...the Government of India should, in our opinion, bring about appropriate amendments in the environmental statutes, Rules and notification to ensure that in all environmental Courts, Tribunals and appellate authorities there is always a Judge of the rank of a High Court Judge or a Supreme Court Judge, — sitting or retired — and Scientist or group of Scientists of high ranking and experience so as to help a proper and fair adjudication of disputes relating to environment and pollution..."

[*Translation*]

Telecom Facilities in Madhya Pradesh

891. SHRI SHANKAR PANNU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/Public Telephone Booths functioning in Madhya Pradesh at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of booths out of them functioning and lying closed;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for installation of said booths in the State, district-wise;

(d) the reasons therefor and the time by which the said applications are likely to be processed and approved;

(e) the number of telephones lying out of order in the State, district-wise;

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which these telephones are likely to be made in the working order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

[English]

Gas and Oil Reserves

892. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the location in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kaveri Basin where gas and oil reserves have so far been discovered;

(b) the production of gas and oil in these areas, area-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any petroleum and gas based industry or petroleum by product based gas industry in the said area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Legislation to overcome Consumption of Power

893. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring legislation to overcome the problems of over-consumption of power in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government is formulating a legal framework for establishing an apex level central body for laying down standards and norms on energy consumption for equipments and appliances, energy labelling of equipments and appliances, and for energy auditing to promote the efficient use of power/energy and for its conservation. The Government also encourages various programmes which promote awareness about over consumption of power, and find technical solutions towards energy conservation.

[Translation]

Power Generation

894. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for power generation in MW during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether adequate allocation was made to achieve the said targets;

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

(d) whether any financial assistance was sought from the Government to achieve these targets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The target fixed for capacity addition during 1996-97 and 1997-98 in various states