

and alternative fishing sites are available to the fishermen. An Eco-development programme around the sanctuary has also been started to mitigate the hardship faced by the fishermen.

Crisis Management Group

929. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up Crisis Management Group to facilitate new power projects:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it would be beneficial in constructing the new power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Government has set up the Crisis Resolution Group under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Power on January 1, 1999 for resolving the 'Last Mile' problems of power projects and to ensure that the pending techno-economically cleared power projects are financially closed and construction started in the years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000. The Groups has had two meetings and addressed several issues hindering financial closure and early start of construction of power projects.

Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western U.P.

930. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sought any opinion of the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court on the issue of establishment of a Bench of the Allahabad High Court in western U.P.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Specific recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission for setting up of Benches of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh were referred to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for views and comments, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. The State Government

have sought the views of the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court in this regard, who has not favoured a Bench of the High Court being set up in Western Uttar Pradesh.

Overseas Venture for Captive Crude Oil

931. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Indian Oil Corporation propose to venture overseas to enhance the supply of captive crude oil for refining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expected enhancement in crude oil production as a result 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) Yes, Sir. Acquisition of equity oil abroad is one of the objectives pursued by the two companies.

(b) and (c) Specific oil field project details in this regard are not known.

[*Translation*]

Consumption of LPG

932. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government have estimated the annual consumption of L.P.G. in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated total L.P.G. requirement for commercial and domestic use in the country for the current year;

(c) whether the indigenously produced L.P.G. is not sufficient to meet the requirement and it is also being imported;

(d) if so, the quantity of L.P.G. supplied through the indigenous sources and through imports during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the amount of subsidy given per cylinder on the imported and indigenous gas?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated total LPG requirement to be met through PSU Oil Companies in the country for domestic and non-domestic use for the year 1998-99 is 4980 TMT.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of LPG supplied through indigenous sources and PSU imports for the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under:

(Figs. in TMT)

Year	Production	Imports
1996-97 (ACT)	3356	1035
1997-98 (ACT)	3444	1087
1998-99 (EST)	3451	1598

(e) As per the phased dismantling programme approved by the Government, effective 1-4-1998, even the domestic producers of LPG are paid import parity price for the product. The subsidy on LPG (domestic) for 1998-99 was estimated to be about Rs. 84/- per cylinder. In line with the phased programme for dismantling of APM, the Government increased the consumer price of LPG (domestic) at ex-storage point by Rs. 14/- per cylinder exclusive of duty, sales tax and other local levies effective midnight of 31st January/1st February, 1999.

[English]

Visakhapatnam Power Project

933. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on Visakhapatnam Power project;

(b) the reasons for slow progress; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove inter-ministerial tussle among the Coal, Finance and Railway Ministries so as to expedite completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The 1040 MW Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited (HNPCL) has received the counter guarantee of Government of India on August 19, 1998. M/s HNPCL has since signed the requisite agreements with the concerned agencies of the Central Government and according to information available, are presently resolving certain issues relating to the Power Purchase Agreement with Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board and negotiating with the financial institutions and foreign lenders for financing the project. The project is scheduled for commissioning after 44 months from the date of financial closure by the promoters.

Use of Banned Equipments in Hospitals

934. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banned equipments are still being used in various Government hospitals and other recognised hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Crime Branch has failed to seize the outdated equipments bought during 1988-90 allegedly responsible for over 26 deaths in the hospitals of the capital; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to stop the use of outdated and banned equipments in the hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Banned equipments are not being used in Central Government Hospitals.