

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of districts covered under said scheme; and

(c) the names and number of private companies permitted to operate in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir. Wireless satellite telephones for remote and inaccessible areas of the country have been planned to introduced from 1999-2000 by the DoT.

(b) 500 to 1,000 satellite telephone terminals are expected to be provided during 1999-2000 in remote and inaccessible areas of the country *i.e.* J&K, HP, hills of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, North-East, Rajasthan desert etc. where terrestrial technologies are techno-economically non-feasible.

(c) Village public telephones are being provided by Deptt. of Telecom. Licences have been granted to six private companies to provide basic telecom service and also village public telephones in six Circles. There are Essar Commvision for Punjab, Shyam Telelinks for Rajasthan, Reliance Telecom for Gujarat, Bharati Telenet for Madhya Pradesh, Hughes Ispat for Maharashtra and Tata Teleservices for Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Setting up of Bottling Plant in M.P.

949. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land has been made available to set up bottling plant of Hindustan Petroleum in Maneri industrial area in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry have formulated any scheme to set up the bottling plant within a specific period; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be formulated?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The land has been made available at Maneri Industrial area, Distt. Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh for setting

up of 44 TMTPA capacity LPG bottling plant. The plant is proposed to be commissioned by April, 2000.

(c) The plant is being set up under IXth plan approved by Government.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

[English]

Proposal for Six Lane Highway in Karnataka

950. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted any proposal for seeking approval of the Union Government for 135 Km. long six lane highway on the outskirts of the city connecting Dobbaspeta and Attibele;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Harnessing Herbs

951. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a special tribunal/make serious efforts for the promotion, conservation and development of herbs of Indian origin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made for the advancement of Indian herbal science in order to bring it to the world standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Schemes are being

implemented for setting up of Medicinal Plants Gardens and development of Agro-Techniques for growing of medicinal plants. This would help in promotion, conservation and development of Medicinal Herbs.

(c) Pharmacopoeial Standards are being formulated for single drugs and compound formulations of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy.

Expansion of NTPC Power Plant, Talcher Phase-II

952. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation Power Plant Talcher Phase-II is being expanded with external assistance and also in collaboration with the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and foreign multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project would be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is setting up Talcher Thermal Power Plant Phase II of 2000 MW (4x500 MW) at Kaniha in Angul district of Orissa. The project is proposed to be funded with debt equity ratio of 70:30. The equity portion would be met through internal resources of NTPC while debt portion is proposed to be financed through domestic borrowings and foreign currency loan. The major package would be awarded through International Competitive Bidding and hence no collaboration with either Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited or any foreign multinational companies is envisaged for implementation of the project.

(c) The synchronisation of the units of the project is envisaged as follows:

Unit I	June, 2003
Unit II	March, 2004
Unit III	December, 2004
Unit IV	September, 2005

[Translation]

Setting up of Petrol Pumps in Madhya Pradesh

953. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up petrol pumps at Chitrakut, Mazagaon, Birsinghpur, Jaitware in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh in view of the increasing number of tractors and vehicles in the district and demand from the local people of the area; and

(b) 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) and (b) Retail outlet dealerships are opened at the feasible locations meeting Oil Industry's 'Volume-distance norms'. At Jaitware, one retail outlet is already in operation. Location Chitrakoot has been included in the marketing plan for setting up retail outlet dealership. The remaining two locations viz. Mazagaon and Birsinghpur have not been found feasible for setting up retail outlet dealership.

[English]

Contracting AIDS

954. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports have been received that patients who under-went dialysis have contracted the AIDS virus in different parts of the country and especially in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir-

(b) The total AIDS cases reported to NACO upto 31st December, 1998 is 6693. None of these cases have been attributed to getting infection from dialysis.