

*[English]***Implementation of Fifth Pay Panel Report**

972. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give necessary direction to the Indian Red Cross Society to implement recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the Indian Red Cross Society to charge the cost of disposables used in its Blood Banks from the donors as in the case of Government Hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) As the Indian Red Cross Society is an autonomous Organisation, the question of issuing direction by the Government in them matter does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has permitted non-profit Organisations, including Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) to charge the cost of disposables used in the Blood Bank @ Rs. 250/- per unit. The cost of consumables is Rs. 600/- per unit approximately. The IRCS may subside the rest of the cost. However, the final decision is to be taken by the Managing Body of the India Red Cross Society.

**Building Expressways**

973. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:  
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No Takers for building expressway in India" appearing in *Indian Express*, dated January 14, 1999;

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

(c) whether the proposal of Malaysian Consortium of companies in executing four highway projects has run into rough weather; and

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government to start expressway immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government does not agree with the views expressed therein.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Free Power Supply to Agriculture Sector**

974. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the names of States where power supplied to agriculture sector is free of any charge?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): As per information available in the Central Electricity Authority, presently States of Tamil Nadu and Punjab are supplying power to Agriculture Sector free of charge.

**Setting up a Naphtha Cracker Project  
In Tamil Nadu**

975. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited propose to set up a Naphtha Cracker Project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be start functioning; and

(d) the present status of the project?

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) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is exploring the possibilities of setting up naphtha cracker project in Tamil Nadu. The proposal presently is at preliminary stage.

#### **Gas Cracker Project in Assam**

976. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of Gas Cracker Project in Assam has been going on as per schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay and the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned;

(c) the amount spent by the State or Union Government on the project; and

(d) the number of local persons given employment in the project so far?

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) A Joint Venture Company, Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL), has been incorporated for the implementation of the project. Government of Assam has identified 1262 acres of land at Tengakhat for setting up the cracker complex, a part of which belonging to the Government of Assam has been handed over to RAPL. The remaining land is under acquisition of the Government of Assam. The Government of India has committed to supply gas for the production of 2 lakh Tonnes Per Annum (TPA) of Ethylene at a concessional price of Rs. 600 per thousand standard cubic meter for 15 years. In this regard Gas Supply Agreement between RAPL and OIL is in advance stage of finalisation. Substantial investment is expected to flow after finalisation of Gas Supply Agreement and handing over of entire land to RAPL. RAPL has started recruitment for the cracker project. 65 graduate engineers belonging to State of Assam have already been recruited and currently undergoing training in various units of Reliance Industries Ltd. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 3600 crore and likely to be completed within 44 months from the date of signing of Gas Supply Agreement or handing over of the entire land, whichever is later.

[Translation]

#### **Telecom Services in Bihar**

977. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:  
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of applications are waiting for the telephone connections in various telephone exchanges under the Betia region in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, exchange-wise;

(c) whether the condition of the telephone services have been found unsatisfactory in Darbhanga district in Bihar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list, expand the telephone exchanges and to provide better telephone services?

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

(a) and (b) The waiting list of various telephone exchanges under Betia region in Bihar is as per the statement attached.

(c) All telephone exchanges in Darbhanga district are electronic. The telephone services in Darbhanga District in Bihar is quite satisfactory. The fault rate of the last three months is given below:—

November 98	6.9%
December 98	6.8%
January 99	6.5%

(d) Not applicable.

(e) The Government proposes to take the following steps to clear the waiting list, to expand the telephone exchanges and to provide better telephone services.

1. It is planned to provide 185000 lines of switching Capacity and 131000 Direct Exchange Lines in Bihar during 1998-99. Out of this, 51720 lines of switching capacity and 50121 No. of new telephone connections were provided upto 31.1.99.
2. External plants are being expanded and upgraded.
3. Overhead/analogue transmission media are being replaced by digital UHF/OFC transmission media.