

National Population Policy has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the same is at present under Government's active consideration. The draft policy seeks to address all relevant issues relating comprehensive inter-sectoral coordination for reaching the desired goal of population stabilisation within the shortest possible time.

The Government has already taken several policy initiatives to change the direction and the scene for the Family Welfare Programme. Contraceptive method specific targets have been given up; a process of decentralised planning and implementation of the programme has been initiated and a countrywide Reproductive and Child Health Programme for upgrading and expanding services in the area of maternal and child health has been launched. There is a renewed emphasis on male participation in the programme. The support of the non-government organisations and the private sector is being enlisted. The IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign is being strengthened. Government proposes to intensify and integrate all such programmes.

#### **Development of Cochin Shipyard**

1017. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the development of the Cochin Shipyard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :  
(a) and (b) Augmentation, upgradation and modernisation of shipbuilding/Shiprepair facilities is a continuous process and it is done through the Plan Schemes.

During the 8th Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 33.55 crores was spent for the purpose in Cochin Shipyard Limited. In the 9th Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 65 crores has been provided. A sum of Rs. 10 crores was released for implementing various Plan Schemes during 1997-98. A sum of Rs. 10 crores has also been allocated for implementing Plan Schemes, included in the Annual Plan for 1998-99.

#### **Fraudulent use of Telephones**

1018. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fraudulent use of telephones are allegedly going on in some major cities like Bombay, Bangalore, Calcutta, New Delhi and other cities by connivance with departmental staff, enabling long time and large scale STD and ISD calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a departmental Suo Moto vigilance inquiry in this regard has been ordered; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):  
(a) and (b) 44 cases of fraudulent use of telephones from various cities have come to notice.

(c) and (d) Of these 44 cases, 19 cases have been made over to CBI. Disciplinary action as per rules against the employees found guilty has been initiated/ taken in 19 cases. 6 cases are under departmental investigations.

*[Translation]*

#### **Out of Order STD Lines at Kanpur**

1019. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STD lines at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh generally remain out of order due to technical problems;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which they are likely to be in the working condition; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing uninterrupted S.T.D. service in the town?

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

(a) No, Sir. STD circuits have been provided on Fibre Optic and Digital Microwave system. The performance and reliability of these transmission systems is very good.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) As a part of continuous Technology upgradation, TAX of new technology switch is scheduled to be commissioned in the year 1999-2000.

[*English*]

#### Inefficient Handling of Oil Imports

1020. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "inefficient handling of Oil Imports adds to forex drain" appearing in the *Hindustan Times*, dated December 14, 1998.

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 (c) The news-item, *inter alia*, reported demurrage paid for ships carrying HSD and LPG and also regarding prices of petroleum products. Imports of petroleum products are made in line with the approved plan to meet the demand and having regard to the processing schedule of refineries, the monthly demand pattern within the country and the need to maintaining strategic inventory levels.

Infrastructural constraints result in congestion at the ports. The oil industry incurs demurrage partly due to non-availability of berth/ullage and partly due to requirement of keeping some inventory floating in high seas. With a view to optimize utilization of available port infrastructure had to achieve reduction in the detention of the tankers to the extent feasible, a number of measures have already been initiated; which, *inter alia* include Commissioning of two virtual jetties at Kandla by IOC and HPC, Offshore lighterage of product import tankers at Kandla, offshore lighterage of crude tankers at Saugor (Haldia), augmentation of tankage at coastal/inland locations etc.

#### Import Demand of Petroleum Products

1021. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import demand for petroleum products has gone down during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of petroleum products imported during 1998-99, product-wise in comparison with the preceding three years?

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 (c) The import requirement of petroleum products during 1998-99 through PSUs was projected to be 19.312 MMT. As against this, the actual import of petroleum products during the period April-December, 1998 was of 14.14 MMT. Quantity of petroleum products imported during last three years and 1998-99 (April-December, 1998) is as under:—

(Quantity : '000 Tonnes)

Products	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98*	1998-99* (April-December)
1	2	3	4	5
LPG	678	1035	1087	1039
Mogas	435	449	331	251
Naphtha	—	—	—	40