

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, I have said that it is in the joint sector. It is true that the late Prime Minister laid the foundation stone. The initial capacity that was given was 15,000 tonnes and we have agreed to increase this to 30,000 tonnes from the viability point of view, and the time expected to complete the project will be about four years.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Sir, I had asked about the time, i. e., how much time will it take to complete it after the issue of licence.

[English]

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : There are a number of factors involved in setting it up. We give a licence. We cannot give a specific duration. The State Government will have to provide infrastructural facilities and other things. I have said in the statement that there is a problem regarding water. As soon as the State Government settles this, it will take it up. The expected time is four years. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is now over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Opening of Post Offices in Villages

*202. **SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the population of villages, particularly the villages with a population of more than one thousand, which have no post offices ; and

(b) if so, whether Government have drawn up any plan to open post offices in the villages having population between five hundred and one thousand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Surveys are conducted from time to time to assess the number of villages which justify opening of post offices in the light of the prescribed departmental norms.

(b) No, Sir. Except in the case of gram Panchayats a village should have a minimum population of 2,000 in normal rural areas and 1,000 in backward and tribal areas to be eligible for a post office.

Financial Assistance for Family Courts

*207. **DR. PHULRENU GUHA :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government provide financial assistance to states to start family courts ;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to States to start family courts ; and

(c) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide financial assistance to States to start family courts.

[Translation]

Reduction in Prices of Cooking Gas/Kerosene by B. P. C. L.

*208. **SHRI C. D. GAMIT :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested in the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. ;

(b) the profit earned and loss suffered during the period from 1982 to June, 1985, year-wise ;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the prices of cooking gas and kerosene keeping in view the profit earned during the previous years ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make available cooking gas and kerosene at reduced rates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The net worth — Share capital and Reserves (Investment) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited as on the 31st March, 1985 stood at Rs. 12,012 lakhs.

(b) The net profit after tax for each year ending the 31st March was :

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1982	1407
1983	1346
1984	1566
1985	1380
April to June, 1985	327 (Prov.)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Merger of five sick Public Sector Undertakings of West Bengal into a holding company

*213. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been considering a merger proposal of five sick public sector undertakings of West Bengal into a new holding company ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which such a holding company is likely to come into existence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) to (c) As a part of structural reorganisation of public enterprises, with a view to improving their efficiency and inter-unit coordination, a proposal has been made to form a holding company consisting of

(1) Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd., (2) Engineering Portion of Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd., and Weighbird (India) Ltd., (3) Lagan Jute Machinery Co. Ltd., (4) Bharat Wagon Engineering Co. Ltd., (5) Burn Standard Co. Ltd., (6) Jessop & Co. Ltd., (7) Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., and (8) BBJ Construction Co. Ltd., with headquarters at Calcutta, keeping in view their inter-related product mix. No decision has been taken on the proposal.

[Translation]

New Scheme for Khadi Gramodyog

*214. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new scheme is being formulated for Khadi Gramodyog ;

(b) if so, the outlines of the scheme ;

(c) the time by which it will be implemented ; and

(d) the additional expenditure likely to be incurred on the implementation of this new scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) to (d) - The Khadi Gramodyog implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a continuing programme. It includes development of Khadi and 26 village industries included in the Schedule to KVIC Act, 1956.

2. The allocation of funds to the KVIC for its activities has been substantially increased from Rs. 208 crores in the 5th Five Year Plan to Rs. 518.09 crores in the 6th Five Year Plan, both inclusive of rebate on sale of Khadi and subsidy in lieu of interest on Government loans. In the 7th Plan, an outlay of Rs. 540 crores has been provided to the Commission out of Government resources, exclusive of roughly Rs. 300 crores spent in the last year of 6th Plan on account of rebate on retail sales of Khadi and subsidy in lieu of interest on