

(f) if so, the quantity of crude oil sent to foreign countries during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 for refining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). The project demand of Petroleum products from the year 2001-2002 is estimated to be approximately 102 MMTPA. Present refining capacity in the country is 53.4 MMTPA. Considering the proposed expansion of existing refineries and based on the LOI issued till now to various parties, the refining capacity is expected to increase to around 119 MMTPA for meeting the estimated demand of petroleum products by 2001-2002.

(c) The total refining capacity in the country by the end of 1993-94 is 53.40 MMTPA.

(d) the percentage of indigenous crude oil out of total crude refined during the last three years is as under:—

Years	Percentage
1991-92	54.7
1992-93	45.2
1993-94	43.7

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Service Tax

140. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., has decided to pass the burden 'service tax' levied under the 'Budget on Telephone Companies/Corporations, to the consumers; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The Service Tax is recovered from the subscribers of Telephone Connection as per Finance Act, 1994 and rules made there-under.

[Translation]

Talks with United Arab Emirates

141. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any political level talks were held recently with United Arab Emirates;

(b) if so, whether the issue of extradition treaty was also discussed during the course of negotiations between the two countries;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries in regard thereto; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). No recent talks at political level have been held with UAE. However, the issue of Extradition Treaty, which was first discussed at the meeting of the Indo-UAE Joint Commission in New Delhi in January 1994, was considered at technical level discussions in Abu Dhabi on February 7-8, 1994, with a view to concluding an Extradition Treaty.

(c) No agreement has yet been reached and both sides are now evaluating the results of negotiations held in February 1994.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

LPG Price by Private Sector

142. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of LPG through private parallel market system is cheaper than that supplied by the public sector; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). The products imported under the Parallel Market System can be sold at market determined prices. There is no price control by Government.

Silk Mines in Orissa

143. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the list of sick iron ore and manganese ore mines in Orissa;

(b) the reasons for the sickness of these mines; and

(c) the details of the steps taken for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) According to the information furnished by the Government of Orissa, 4 iron ore mines each in Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh Districts and 2 iron ore mines in Keonjhar District are reported to be closed. Likewise, 2 manganese ore mines are reported to be closed in Sundargarh District. List of these mines is shown in the enclosed *Statement*. Production in some other mines is also stated to have fallen during the year 1993 as compared to the production in the year 1992.

(b) The reason for closure and fall in production in the mines is reported to be mainly the decline in export and domestic demand.

(c) Some of the mines owners are reported to be making efforts to prepare calibrated iron ore which at present has a better market. Improvement market conditions will also help in the revival of the mines.