

(d) the action taken/being taken to fill up the reserved vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There was a backlog of only 7 SC and 13 ST vacancies as on 1.1.1995.

(c) The posts could not be filled due to non-availability of suitable candidates for specific jobs at specific locations.

(d) Efforts are on to clear the backlog through special recruitment drives, etc.

[Translation]

Pay-loaders with BCCL

2621. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pay-loaders with Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL);

(b) the number of pay-loaders out of them in working condition;

(c) the expenditure incurred on repairs of defective pay-loaders during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(d) whether all the pay-loaders repaired were of B.C.C.L.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b). As on 25.3.1995, 157 nos. of pay loaders in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. were engaged on coal transportation and loading jobs and 131 nos. of these were in operating condition.

(c) Expenditure incurred on repair of defective pay loaders during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are indicated below :

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in 1000)
1991-92	38869
1992-93	34050
1993-94	35431

(d) Yes, Sir.

[English]

Mega Issue of ONGC

2622. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has proposed a mega issue for Rs.5000 crores;

(b) if so, the technical and financial details of mega issue; and

(c) the latest stage of this mega issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) ONGC proposes to go in for a public issue of its shares in the year 1995-96. The size of the issue has not been finalised.

(b) and (c). Technical and financial details of the issue have not been finalised.

Investment in Agricultural Sector

2623. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether adverse circumstance has been existing for investment in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the gross decline in agriculture investment as compared to last decade; and

(d) the measures/steps taken by the Government to increase the investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c). Gross capital formation in Agriculture and Allied Activities, measured at 1980-81 prices, decreased during the eighties from Rs.4864 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 4792 crores in 1989-90 and has increased during the nineties to Rs. 5228 crores in 1993-94.

(d) During the Eight Five Year Plan (1992-97) a significant shift in investment is proposed in favour of areas in Agriculture and Allied Activities like horticulture, fisheries, rainfed farming, creation of infrastructure for minor irrigation, post-harvest management, etc.

LPG Storage Depots

2624. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'LPG depots throw rules to the winds' appearing in the 'The Sunday Times' (Delhi edition) dated March 12, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the rules relating to location of LPG storage depots in the close vicinity of thickly populated residential localities in the capital are not being followed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.