

areas where these connections are required are at present technically Non-feasible. All these applicants will be provided connections by December, 1994.

(d) Not applicable in view of (b) and (c) above.

### **HPCL Agreement with SPGL**

3945. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) has recently signed an agreement with a US firm for the supply of Naphtha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the companies involved in the said Joint Venture project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c). The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has signed an agreement with M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Ltd. for the supply of 30000 MTs of naphtha per year to their power station being put up at Kakinada. The project is being set up as a joint venture consisting of Spectrum Technology USA Inc. and Jaya Food Industries of Hyderabad with the National Thermal Power Corporation, Rolls Royce Partners Finance, Westing House Corporation and Commonwealth Development Corporation joining in the equity of the company.

### **Tapping of Telephones in Karnataka**

3946. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephones of leading politicians and journalists are being tapped in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details with reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). Sir, under the provisions of Section 5(ii) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Department of Telecom extends technical facilities to any Officer authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government in the matter of tapping of telephones under certain situations.

The Department of Telecom is not authorised to exercise any further checks in the matter. However, the Department is not aware of any such tapping of telephones of leading politicians and journalists.

[Translation]

### **Maheshwar Hydro Power Project**

3947. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maheshwar Hydro Power Project on river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh has been handed over to private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.