

(b) Both ONGC and GAIL are taking steps for the supply of gas to NEEPCO, Ramchandra Nagar and additional gas to TSED Rokhia.

**Commission to Petrol, Diesel Retail Outlets Owners**

3838. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the owners of petrol and diesel retail outlets have demanded the higher commission due to increase in the transportation charges;

(b) if so, the details of demand; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c). Various representations have been received for revising the rates of commission. Accordingly, a Committee has been constituted to examine the demands raised by the Dealers/Distributors for revision in the commission.

**Posting of Section Officers**

3839. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TEWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether section officers on promotion to Grade-I are posted outside their Ministry?

(b) whether there is an exception for those who have completed 50 years of age; and

(c) whether similar exception be allowed to the officers who are holding the ex-cadre posts on deputation basis, convertible in CSS, if they are handling the job of Deputy Liaison Officer for SC/ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). On promotion to Grade I of the Central Secretariat Service (Under Secretary level), a Section Officer is compulsorily transferred out of the Ministry only if he has more than 8 years of service left for superannuation. This also applies to Section Officers holding ex-cadre posts on their promotion to Grade-I of the Central Secretariat Service.

**Vacant Posts of IAS and IPS**

3840. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM :

COL. RAO RAM SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several posts of IAS/IPS are lying vacant in many States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). Posts in the All India Services comprise direct recruitment and promotion posts. Direct Recruitment posts are filled up in consultation with the State Governments on the basis of the merit list of the Civil Services Examination in respect of the IAS and IPS, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission.

Promotion posts are filled up in accordance with the Promotion Regulations, from out of eligible candidates from the States Services, as and when vacancies arise in the promotion quota.

This is an ongoing process, with the possibility of short term vacancies arising due to promotions, transfers, training, casualties, etc. of officers.

**Income Criteria**

3841. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Personnel and Training issued O.M. No. 36012/22/93- dated 8.9.1993 stating therein that "The income criteria in terms of rupee will be modified taking into account the change in its value every three years. If the situation, however, so demands, the interregnum may be less";

(b) whether the Government have since modified the upper limit of income for deciding the "creamy layer";

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to undertake this exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). No revision of the income criteria has been considered so far because the specified time limit has just expired.

[Translation]

**Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells**

3842. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made regarding the research work relating to Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells of 1992;

(b) whether the engineers sent abroad for the purpose of studies in this field are working on the project;

(c) if so, the area-wise total expenditure incurred on this plan till now;

(d) whether the Government are satisfied with the progress made in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e). During 1986-87 Government initiated a coordinated research programme on development on single junction amorphous silicon solar cells with the participation of seven research institutions and industry. Under this programme the research groups at National Physical Laboratory (NPL) and Indian Association for Cultivation of Science (IACS) successfully developed single junction amorphous silicon solar cells of 10-12% efficiency during 1990-92, which was comparable to the international level achieved at that time. In 1992 the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) commissioned a pre-commercial pilot plant facility and successfully demonstrated fabrication of single junction amorphous silicon modules of 1 ft x 1 ft size and some applications based on these modules.

Since 1992 the BHEL has demonstrated batch fabrication of amorphous silicon modules for field trials. The research groups at NPL and IACS are pursuing further research in amorphous silicon cells. The IACS group is now working on development of double junction amorphous silicon solar cells.

Some engineers and scientists from the research groups at NPL, IACS and BHEL were sent abroad for study tours and training on operation of equipment. Most of them are continuing to work on amorphous silicon solar cell and module research and development. The basic objective of amorphous silicon solar cell technology development has thus been met.

During the Eighth Plan period a total amount of Rs. 7.64 crores has been spent so far on the development of amorphous silicon solar cells, of which an amount of Rs. 6.54 crores has been spent on the pilot plant activities.

#### Power Projects in U.P.

3843. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the progress made in power projects being implemented in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of proposals lying pending with the Union Government for approval in regard to set up new power projects in the State;

(c) the details thereof, project-wise;

(d) whether foreign investors/private power producers are involved in setting up power projects in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The details of sanctioned on-going projects in the State of Uttar Pradesh, which are at various stages of execution, are given below :

S. No.	Name of Project and Capacity (MW)	Anticipated year of commissioning/ Status
1.	Tehri St. I (4x250)	2002
2.	Dhauliganga (4x70)	2004-2005
3.	Lakhwar Vvesi (3x100 + 2x60)	Beyond 9th Plan
4.	Vishnuprayag (4x100)	Posed to Private Sector
5.	Srinagar (5x66)	Posed to Private Sector
6.	Sobla (2x3)	1997
7.	Maneri Bhali St. II (4x76)	Posed to Private Sector
8.	Feroze Gandhi (Unchahar TPP) (2x210)	July, 2000
9.	Tanda TPP 4 (110)	June, 1997

(b) and (c). Out of these, Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for the following projects which are now for execution in the private sector, have been received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and are under examination :

S. No.	Name of Project and Promotor	Installed Capacity (MW)
1.	Vishnuprayag (M/s. JIL)	400
2.	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncas Industries Ltd.)	330

In addition, Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Rosa (Phase-I) of M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers and Chemical Corporation Ltd., for capacity of 567 MW has also been received in the Central Electricity Authority and is under examination.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Apart from the projects indicated in reply to parts (a) to (c), for MOU projects with estimated cost over Rs. 100 Crores. Pacific Electric Power Development has proposed setting up Jawaharpur TPS (500 MW) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.