

31 Dhirubhai Ambani

CHAIRMAN OF RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

BORN Dec. 28, 1932, in Chorwad, Gujarat, India

EDUCATION High school graduate

FAMILY Married; two sons, Mukesh and Anil, who also run Reliance

POWER POINTS If power is measured in face time with the leader of the free world, then Ambani has it in spades. Bill Clinton spent 45 minutes with the "Polyester Prince" on his recent visit to India. Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee got just 10. As boss of India's largest private enterprise, Ambani told Clinton how conflict with Pakistan might impact business. He gives the PM his views, too. It is often said that Ambani — and Reliance — have benefited from the benevolence of the government. These days it seems more like the other way around.



Pradeep Chandra for Asiaweek



32 Li Peng

CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, CHINA

BORN Oct. 20, 1928, in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China

EDUCATION Zhangjiakou School of Industry, Moscow Mechanical Institute

FAMILY Married; three children

HOBBIES Basketball, calligraphy, driving

POWER POINTS Secure in his job as NPC chief, where he is pursuing a brisk legislative pace, Li owes his longevity at the top to strong support from elder and more conservative cadres, as well as the backing of the State Council, which he headed for two terms. Even a potentially damaging corruption scandal involving a key crony has been quietly brushed under the carpet. Much like the controversy surrounding his central role in the bloody Tiananmen crackdown, it seems Li isn't going away in a hurry.