

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has urged the Government to amend the Central and State Acts to invest it with more powers for maintaining the standards of medical education; and

(b) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to check the standard of medical education falling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). The Medical Council of India, which is responsible for the maintenance of standards of Medical Education in the country, has suggested certain Amendments to the I.M.C. Act, 1956 to enforce standards of Medical Education. These are under consideration,

Microhydel and Biomass-Based Projects

1992. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to permit the private sector to take up microhydel and biomass-based projects in the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) and (b). Such proposals, if any, are considered by the Government on merits under the existing policy.

Lignite-Based T.P.P. for Rajasthan

1993. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have conducted a comprehensive survey through M/s. Mineral Corporation Ltd., and Geological Survey of India in Kaporadi village of Barmer District of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of Lignite reserves found so far;

(c) whether a techno-economic feasibility report on setting up a lignite based thermal plant making use of the said Lignite has been submitted to Union Government or any other Agency; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND) : (a) to (d). An interim geological report on the exploration has estimated the lignite deposits at 62.94 MT. Work is continuing in the area to firm up the reserves. A feasibility report for using these lignite reserves for power generation (500 MW) has not been received in the Central Electricity Authority or the Department of Power.

Providing a Stoppage of Mail Trains at Malhabad Station

1994. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASADA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that no mail train stops at Malhabad Railway Station on Delhi-Lucknow main rail route causing inconvenience to passengers of the area;

(b) if so, whether in view of inconvenience of passengers, Government propose to provide a stoppage for mail trains there;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Traffic offering does not justify provision of stoppage of additional Mail/Express trains at Malhabad Station,