

been summoned;

(c) whether the hiring charges of these rigs are being paid in foreign currency; and

(d) if so, the hiring charges with relevant details.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) The major technological developments are:—

Offshore — Drilling of horizontal wells.

Onland — Induction of mobile rigs

(b) to (d). At present 16 foreign rigs are working for ONGC and OIL. These rigs have been chartered from companies from USA, Japan, Italy, West Germany, Australia and USSR at different charter rates. In certain cases the entire hiring charges are paid in foreign currency while in others, part payment is also made in Indian rupees.

Air Service to State Capitals from Calicut

1093. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for connection Calicut with more state capitals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests have been received to connect Calicut with Bangalore/Madras/Trivandrum etc. So far as Indian Airlines is

concerned, it is not possible for the Corporation to introduce services from Calicut to Bangalore/Madras/Trivandrum due to capacity constraints. However, Indian Airlines will consider connecting Calicut with Bangalore/Madras/Trivandrum depending upon induction of sufficient Airbus A-320 aircraft. Vayudoot has no plans to airlink Calicut with other state capitals in addition to Madras/Bangalore/Trivandrum/Bombay and Agatti to which it is operating from Calicut at present.

Harnessing of Wind/Tidal Energy in Kerala

1094. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been made to determine power resources in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to harness wind energy, tidal energy or solar energy in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Based on studies carried out by CEA, the hydro power potential in Kerala has been assessed as 2301 MW at 60% load factor generally for major and medium hydro projects. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have taken up wind monitoring and wind mapping projects in Kerala to assess wind energy potential. Studies have also been made by the Central for Earth Science Studies, Trivandrum to assess wave energy potential along the Kerala coast.

(c) and (d). The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implement-