

(c) whether the Government are incurring heavy losses on account of the activities of coal mafia;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to constitute a committee of Members of Parliament to investigate the large scale bungling and irregularities in the coal distribution; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), during the course of investigation of 7 cases registered by them in 1989 the payments of benami fixed deposit receipts involving an amount of Rs. 3.77 crores were stopped. Later on, an amount of Rs. 2.70 crores was released on the basis of the order dated 22.4.91 of Calcutta High Court. All the 7 cases are reportedly under investigation of the CBI.

(c) and (d) The activities of anti-social elements do affect the efficient and smooth functioning of the Coal Companies, but it is difficult to quantify the losses.

(e) and (f) There is at present no proposal to constitute such a committee. However, Coal Distribution policy of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is being reviewed by the Government.

[English]

Complaints of LPG Consumers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation

3428. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPG consumers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation have to wait for long periods for supply;

(b) whether numerous complaints have been received in this regard in recent years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) 549 individual

complaints have been received during the last two years and have been inquired into. LPG supply is subject to availability in the country, the availability of which varies from year to year.

Harnessing of Bio-Gas In Kerala

3429. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to harness bio-gas energy in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether subsidy is provided to small bio-gas plants in that State and is likely to continue to be given;

(d) whether bio-gas slurry is a good fertilizer; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to promote its use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A target of setting up of 2500 family type biogas plants have been fixed for the nodal department of the State Government of Kerala for 1991-92. Besides, Khadi and Village Industries Commission is also setting up biogas plants in the State.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Central subsidy for small size biogas plants is likely to be continued subject to availability of financial resources and periodic review.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The steps taken for promotion of the use of slurry for manurial purposes include organisation of demonstrations in farmers' fields, training of beneficiaries, bringing out literature highlighting its benefits in regional languages, etc.

Air Service to Rajahmundry

3430. SHRI K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the Air services to Rajahmundry in view of heavy demand from the ONGC for oil exploration and for gas based industries located there; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Vayudoot is at present operating thrice a week Dornier service on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Rajahmundry Sector. The capacity provided is considered adequate to meet the existing traffic demand.

Expansion of Mangalore Airport

3431. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the expansion of Mangalore Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when this airport is likely to be expanded; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) While a plan has been formulated for the expansion of Mangalore airport and proceedings have been initiated for acquisition of land, the implementation of the expansion project will depend on the availability of financial resources with the National Airports Authority.

Passenger amenities at Katni Station

3432. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken or proposed to be undertaken for the extension of passenger facilities at Katni Railway Station and the progress made so far thereon; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for the purpose during 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) During 1990-91, a double bedded retiring room was provided at a cost of Rs.78,600 and work of extension of waiting hall at a total cost of Rs. 3.30 lakh was sanctioned.

(b) In 1990-91 and 1991-92, Rs. 0.78 lakh and Rs. 1.55 lakh, respectively have been sanctioned.

Transfer of Assets of NTPC

3433. DR. SUDHIR RAY : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transfer of National thermal Power Corporation's assets to National Power Transmission Corporation has taken place on the basis of the power of attorney;

(b) if so, the reasons for transferring the assets of a successful public sector undertaking to another newly created public sector;

(c) whether the transfer has been effected in accordance with the company Law practices and with the consent of the Ministry of Law; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. has executed a Power Attorney in favour of National Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (NPTC) with effect from 16th August, 1991 authorising National Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (NPTC) to manage the transmission lines/sub-stations, assets along with supporting equipments, associated facilities and assets other than those forming integral part of the generating stations as a running business of NPTC and to do all necessary acts in that regard, until necessary formalities for the de-jure transfer of the undertakings are duly completed.

(b) The National Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (NPTC) has been set up to undertake the programme of laying the transmission system and associated sub-stations in a coordinated and efficient manner with a view to move larger blocks of power from various generating sources under the Central Sector to the Load Centres within the region as well as across the regions with reliability, security and economy.

(c) and (d) The present arrangements indicated in reply of the part (a) of the question have been finalised in consultation with Ministry of Law.