

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Through traction is changed, the permissible speed of the track, the load of the train, the path problems enroute, do not permit appreciable speeding up. However, where found feasible, trains have been speeded up at the time of change from steam to diesel/electric traction.

Letter of Intent to NOCIL

4266. SHRI VIDYADHAR GOKHALE:
SHRI HARSH VARDHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have rejected the request of the National Organic Chemicals Industries Limited for grant of a letter of intent in December, 1987;

(b) whether the company had been issued the letter of intent in November, 1989;

(c) if so, the reasons for the change in the decision;

(d) whether while granting such letter of intent, NOCIL was exempted from locational standard conditions required to be fulfilled for industrial licence; and

(e) if so, the propriety and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (e). The application of National Organic Chemical Industries Ltd. (NOCIL) for substantial expansion of its Naphtha Cracker Complex in District Thane, Maharashtra was rejected on prima facie basis in December, 1987 on locational considerations. NOCIL represented against the

rejection of its application and subsequently also produced NOC from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board as well as Department of Environment of Government of Maharashtra. NOCIL also indicated participation of Shell International in the equity of the project as also its own willingness to undertake export obligation.

On techno economic considerations a letter of intent for substantial expansion of capacity has been issued to NOCIL on November 16, 1989. The letter of intent inter-alia incorporates stringent additional conditions in regard to environmental aspect and it is upon fulfilment of these conditional only that the letter of intent would be considered for conversion into an industrial licence.

Thermal Power Projects of West Bengal

4267. SHRI BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sagardighi Thermal Power Project, the Balagarh Thermal Project and Purulia Pump Storage Scheme are proposed to be included in the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the estimated allocation of Central funds for electrification in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, the question of Central allocation for the above projects does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Reservation in Northern Coalfields Limited for local People

4268. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state: