

Plan to Utilise Bombay High Gas in Maharashtra

81. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government had submitted a plan to transport Bombay High gas to Marathwada and Vidharbha to utilise the gas for the development of the region; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The Government of Maharashtra and suggested that a branch line from the HBJ Pipeline be constructed to supply gas to the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. This had been considered and the Maharashtra Government informed that this is not feasible. Subsequently, the Marathwada Development Corporation have submitted a proposal for transportation of 5 MMCMD of natural gas produced in the Western Offshore Region to Marathwada and Vidarbha Regions. Given the present position regarding availability of natural gas, the proposal does not appear to be feasible.

[*Translation*]

Railway Projects in Rajasthan

82. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals for gauge conversion of Jaisalmer-Sawai Madhopur and Jodhpur-Marwar meter-gauge lines and construction of railway lines between Jalore-Phalana, Bilada-Sajot-Marwar, Bilada-Jaitaran Bar, Maidata-Jaitaran Bar and Falana-Ronakpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the programme for extending railway facilities in Western Rajasthan in view of abundant mineral wealth and important tourist places in the area?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). A Final Location Survey has been taken up, as directed by the Planning Commission for gauge conversion of Sawai Madhopur-Jaipur-Phulera-Jodhpur and Merta Road-Lalgarh MG line as first phase of linking Barmer and Jaisalmer with BG network. A survey is also in hand for gauge conversion of Viramgaon-Bhildi-Samdari-Jodhpur MG for developing a BG route between Kandla and Bhatinda. Recently Kota-Chittaurgarh new BG line 166 km long has been opened. Chittaurgarh-Neemach BG line is under construction. There are no other railway projects under consideration at present in Rajasthan.

[*English*]

Personal identification of victims of Air crashes

83. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether airlines in India have any system of personal identification of passengers who become victims of air crashes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of the president of the Forensic Science Society of India, published in 'Times of India' (Bombay Edition) dated February 18, 1990 regarding availability of advanced scientific techniques for personal identification; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure