

(b) whether these aircraft are suitable for Indian conditions;

(c) whether its fly-by-wire technology and wholly computerised systems are creating problems for Indian pilots; and

(d) if so, the details of the difficulties experienced by the pilots and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Some recurrent snags experienced by Indian Airlines in the operation of the A 320 Aircraft relate to smoke in cabin, pressurisation system, hydraulic system, auxiliary power unit, nose steering system and Radome.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The A320 aircraft represents a significant advancement in technology. Some teething problems are generally associated with the induction of any new type of aircraft.

(d) A Task Force has been set up by the Indian Airlines to analyse the recurrent snags and take remedial action.

[Translation]

Report of Economic Advisory Council on Industrial Policy

122. SHRISHIV SHARAN VARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pradhan Mantri Odyogik Neeti Man Senshodhan Ke Pakshdhar" appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated 10.2.1990;

(b) if so, whether the Economic Advi-

sory Council has since submitted its report to Union Government;

(c) If so, the reaction of Union Government thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Economic Advisory Council submitted an Interim Report on Industrial Policy and related issues to the Prime Minister on 9th March, 1990. The Report is under consideration.

[English]

Trans-Asia Gas Pipeline

123. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for a 3,300 kms trans-Asia natural gas pipeline from Bandar Abbas (in Iran) to Calcutta costing around \$ 11,700 million, symbolising an "Asian Energy Initiative".

(b) if so, the broad features of the scheme;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). At the 12th Annual Conference of the International Association for Energy Economics held in New Delhi in January '89, the Iranian Dy. Minister of Mines and Metals had presented a paper on the construction of natural gas pipeline

from Bandarabbas in Iran to Calcutta. The 3310- kms. long pipeline, for transporting 100 MMCM of natural gas would cross through Pakistan before reaching Indian border. The total cost of the Project has been indicates US \$ 11,750 million.

The Project cannot be evaluated until a concrete proposal with all relevant details is received. Such a Project would have to be examined in the light of expected availability of natural gas in the country and the demand for the same from various sectors, as well as the economics of utilisation of such imported gas viz-a-viz other alternatives.

Naphtha Cracker and Down Stream Projects in Haldia Petrochemical Complex

124. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial units like naphtha cracker and various downstream projects in the Haldia Petrochemicals Complex are being allotted to industrialists and entrepreneurs including Non-Resident Indians; and

(b) if so, the details of the norms laid down for their allotment to various parties?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. in its application for a fresh letter of intent for setting up a petrochemical complex at Haldia, received in February 1990, has indicated that the project was proposed to be implemented in joint sector partnership with Tata Tea Limited and its associates; also that, the possibility of investment by non-resident Indians and foreign parties, if found beneficial, was not ruled out. The application is under process.

Perspective Plan of ONGC

125. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has chalked out a programme costing around Rs. 15,000/- crores for the next five years; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and plans included therein and the targets fixed thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). ONGC's programme for the next five years is currently under discussion and can be decided only after the Eighth Five Year Plan is finalised.

Power Generation from Natural Gas

126. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of natural gas as fuel in place of naphtha or other fuel for generation of power has been found to be comparatively cheaper;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made of the country's potential for power generation based on natural gas;

(c) if so, with what results; and

(d) how far natural gas is proposed to be used for power generation during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) On the basis of the existing gas prices, the fuel cost per unit of power generated is more in the case of gas based projects than the coal-based power