

(c) the present status of the project and the steps taken by the Government to execute the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Initial Environmental Examination of Sethusamundram Project has been done by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur. The final Report in this regard has been received from NEERI. This Report has been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Planning Commission has been requested to provide for an outlay of Rs. 5 crores for this Project in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 for the preparation of Detailed Feasibility and Environmental Impact Assessment Studies.

Land Acquisition by HP/BP in Poona

1798. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum have acquired the land of the farmers of village Loni-Kalbhori, district Poona for the purpose of Terminal Station;

(b) if so, the details of land acquired by the two companies;

(c) whether at the time of acquisition of land the farmers were promised to provide jobs atleast to one member of the affected family;

(d) if so, the number of affected families to whom jobs have been provided;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (f) Recently HPCL have not acquired any land at Loni-Kalbhori, distt. Poona for any Terminal Station. However, the Corporation has an existing Terminal for Mumbai-Pune pipeline at Loni which was setup in 1982. As per HPCL at the time of the acquisition of land, no assurance/promise was given/made by HPCL for giving any jobs to

the members of project affected families. Also there is no outstanding representation from any of the original land owners for any jobs.

So far as BPCL is concerned, the Corporation is in the process of acquiring land. However, the land could not be taken over due to refusal of land-owners, who have also filed writ petition in the Mumbai High Court on 8.10.98 and the matter is subjudice.

Population of Sarus and Cranes

1799. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the number of Indian Sarus and Cranes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have also made any study regarding the population of Cranes in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details regarding the population of Sarus as well as Cranes in the State while comparing it to the last survey made in 1984;

(e) whether population of Cranes has dwindled drastically over the last few years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) No systematic survey of Indian Sarus and other Cranes has been conducted across the country. However, according to ecological survey carried out by one Non Governmental Organisation, the population of Sarus Cranes during 1987-88 was between 12000-15000 for the entire country. State-wise details are not available.

(c) and (d) The Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation has recently conducted Sarus Cranes survey according to which estimated number of birds in the state is between 1700-1800. Reliable figures for 1984 are not available.

(e) and (f) The decline in the population of Cranes is mainly due to draining of wetlands for agricultural purposes and heavy concentration of pesticides in agricultural fields.