

waste money on all these surveys? How many surveys have been conducted? As I know, about half a dozen to one dozen surveys have already been made. I am not concerned whether this Government was there in power or not. I want to know from the Government, from technical engineers or somebody, whether they are able to take up this line or not. Or, let them, once for all, say that it is impossible to take it up, that they have no money, that they have no technical report at all. Why to unnecessarily say that this survey will be taken up, that survey will be taken up? So, I want a specific answer from the hon. Minister whether in this century they will take it up or not ..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is not last forty years, it is last sixty years because the first survey was made in 1932, that is, two years after I was born.

SHRI R. GUNDU RAO: Sir, let us clearly tell our people that the Government of India is not able to take up this railway line at all. Why are we unnecessarily raising the question and we are telling our people that it will be taken up? Let even the technical people say that it is not possible under any circumstances for another fifteen or twenty years to take up this railway line.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I do not think the hon. Member should lose heart so soon.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that the hon. Minister has been kind enough to go beyond the confines of the question to a certain extent, I may bring, through you, to his notice that the Karur-Dindigul line work is going on and it is completed also. Not only that, the train has run on it. A slight extension between Karur and Salem will ensure that the train goes from Salem to Madurai straight. Would he kindly consider that, both from the survey point of view as well as from the work point of view?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Yes, Sir.

[*Translation*]

PROF. YADU NATH PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that even through the people of my constituency, i.e. Hazaribagh have the graduate and post graduate qualifications, they did not find an opportunity to see a train to this day. Could I hope that the Hon'ble Minister of Railway will make effort to connect the Hazaribagh area with a railway line in respect of which a survey has already been conducted. Therefore, Hazaribagh may be linked with the railway line.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I need notice on this.

Helicopter Service for ONGC on Rental Basis

*826. **SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to engage helicopter services on rental basis from foreign companies for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission operations in the Western region; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to engage such services in the Southern region also, especially for offshore and on-shore drilling operations in the Cauvery basin in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC have placed a firm telex order on M/s. Canadian Helicopters, Canada on 10.4.90 for the charter hire of two large size helicopters for a period of three months for Bombay offshore. In addition, one medium size helicopter belonging to this company has also been hired for a period of one month from 8.5.90.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM; Sir, hon. Minister has stated that the Government has placed order for hiring two big helicopters on 10.4.1990 with a Canadian Company for ONGC operations for three months. With the same company, another order has been placed on 8.5.1990 for hiring a small helicopter. I would like to know whether quotations for this purpose have been received from other foreign companies. What is the hiring charge of per helicopter per month? With a view to saving foreign exchange, I would like to know whether the Government propose to acquire helicopters permanently?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY; Sir, he has put many questions in one go. Sir, I will try to answer all his questions. He has asked whether it is a normal practice to hire helicopter or take helicopters on loan. It is a normal practice and it is not an abnormal practice at all. Whenever the services of the helicopter is required, we hire a helicopter on loan basis and we also purchase in case it is necessary. The second question is whether one company has been asked to supply these helicopters or whether we have asked other companies also. In this regard, the tenders were processed and they were issued. There were four companies who sent the quotations and out of these four companies, we have selected Canadian Company. One advantage in regard to this aspect is that Canada is giving us grant and loan and about 38% of the grant is involved in this hiring and 62% of loan is advantageous and the helicopters are good. So, we have decided to have these two helicopters from Canada. As far as the small helicopter is concerned, we have also taken a helicopter for a period of one month and the price has been fixed for that and the price is about 475 US dollars per hour for this period. All these helicopters have been taken for a limited period. The country was facing, in particular the ONGC was facing shortage of helicopter services

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM; I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether helicopters are required for Oil and Natural Gas exploration in the Cauvery and

Krishna river basins and in the Bay of Bengal. If so, what steps have been taken by the Government to acquire helicopters for this purpose?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY; Sir, the oil companies do require helicopter; all the time they are required and we have deployed some helicopters already in different regions. Bombay is a regional business centre. The southern regional business centre, the Central regional business centre, the Eastern regional business centre, the Western regional business Centre, the Northern regional business centre are served by the helicopters.

[*Translation*]

DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA; Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister, the reasons for which the Helicopters had been taken from the foreign companies though the Helicopters of Indian companies were available? There are also documents showing the irregularities in respect of the tenders received from various foreign companies. Is it a fact that the preference had been given to the helicopters of foreign countries over the Helicopters of Indian companies? In case the Helicopters are required for a short period as it has been stated by the Hon'ble Minister, I would like to know whether the Government propose to purchase for that purpose their own Helicopters through the Oil and Natural Gas Commission? If not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY; Sir, all efforts were made to have helicopters from indigenous sources. We approached the State Governments of U.P., M.P., Bihar and Gujarat. But unfortunately...

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV; Why not Defence Ministry?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY; Just a minute.

Unfortunately these efforts did not yield the expected results. The State Governments of U.P., M.P. and Bihar have regretted their inability to make available helicopters. But the State Government of Gujarat has agreed to make one helicopter available, but that helicopter was found to be unserviceable. We have tried our best to get helicopters from indigenous sources.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Why can't we get them from the Defence Ministry?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: We have been taking some helicopters from the Defence Ministry. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

DR. SHAIENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA: I did not get the reply to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: He is yet to complete his reply. Please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Let me answer Mr. Dev's question. Sir, may I inform the hon. Member...

DR. SHAIENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA: What about my second question? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. SHAIENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA: I am not getting the reply to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have already asked the question. He is giving his reply. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Why don't you listen to me? I am prepared to answer your question.

Sir, the IAF has been giving us helicopters equivalent to 200 hours. Therefore, Sir, we are taking those helicopters.

Regarding the irregularities as my friend has mentioned, there is no irregularity at all in the scheme. If he points out any specific irregularities, I am prepared to take any action.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I would like to know the places in western region where drilling work is being done by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for which Helicopter services are being utilised? Are the services of the Helicopters being taken even in the western region of Rajasthan in the Jaisalmer area?

MR. SPEAKER: I don't think.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, in the Western Region, I have already given the areas. In the Western region we have got one Chetak helicopter.

SHRIBALGOPAL MISHRA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the foreign exchange component is involved in hiring the helicopters and what is the capacity of the Indian Air Force so far as helicopters are concerned and whether they can lend them or hire them to ONGC or not.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: The foreign exchange involved in respect of two helicopters which we are taking from Canada is US \$ 1,800,000, that is equivalent to Rs. 3.11 crores. In respect of the other one, the medium sized helicopter, it comes to US \$ 475 per hours. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has stated just now that Helicopters have been taken on hire from Canada and crores of rupees are being spent on it. There are very good heli-

copters available with the Ministry of Defence. Why have not they sought the services of these Helicopters?

[English]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: My hon. friend has not understood at all. We are taking the help of the Defence Ministry also. There will be other source, and we are not wasting any foreign exchange or anything for these sources here from which we need helicopters.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Problems of Small and medium scale Industrial

*827. SHRI ANBARASU ERA:
SHRI P. NARSA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a fresh look into entire gamut of problems facing the small and medium scale industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main thrust of the Government's industrial policy is towards the development of small scale

and rural industries with a view, inter alia, to maximise employment opportunities. Review of the system of incentives, concessions and support system for development of small scale industries is a continuous process keeping in view the emerging needs.

Model Stations

*828. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of model railway stations in the country at present;

(b) the special features of these model stations;

(c) whether some more railway stations are proposed to be developed as model stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) The stations selected to be developed as Model Stations will be provided with all amenities so that they become trend setters for all other stations, in the area, in terms of passenger amenities and cater to the traffic needs at the turn of the century.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

S. No.	State	No. of Model Stations	Name of Model Stations
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Hyderabad