

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Demand of Employees of National Airport Authority

*167. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers and employees of the National Airports Authority are on agitation for settling of their demands;

(b) if so, the details of demands made by them; and

(c) the action taken so far to settle the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Prompted by financial reliefs given by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited to their employees, six Unions/Associations of the employees/officers of the National Airports Authority have submitted a joint memorandum demanding identical relief which includes one advance increment from the date of their absorption in the National Airports Authority and one time financial relief varying between Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/- to all the employees. They have proposed to go on agitation if the issue is not settled.

(c) The issue is under discussion with Associations/Unions.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia-Chandrapur Railway Line

*168. SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in regard to

conversion of metregauge railway lines of Jabalpur, Gondia and Chandrapur into broadgauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) The Railway has been advised in August '90 to extend the scope of the survey conducted for conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia Narrow Gauge line to Broad Gauge upto Chandrapur so that establishment of a meaningful alternative North-South route can be considered.

Stepping Up On-Shore Oil Exploration

[*English*]

*169. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

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

(a) whether there is a tremendous potential of on-shore oil in the country whose exploration is less expensive than that of off-shore oil;

(b) whether the Government have worked out any strategy to step up on-shore oil exploration to sustain economic growth and to improve balance of payments position;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the foreign aid, if any;

(d) whether the Government have received any request from the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?