

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?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) There is a good potential for finding oil and gas in the onland sedimentary basins. Offshore basins of India are also considered to be very prospective. The strategy for exploitation and exploitation has to have a judicious mix of fields from both onshore and offshore.

(b) Government's strategy is to maintain if not increase the tempo of exploration in both the onshore as well as offshore basins of India.

(c) As a part of long term strategy both intensive and extensive exploratory efforts are planned which would enable both immediate gains in terms of crude oil production, as also establishing adequate reserves and future exploration leads. Intensive exploration in category I basins have resulted in identification and delineation of nearly all the obvious and simple type of hydrocarbon traps. More advanced survey techniques will be used to identify subtle and geological more complex kind of combination traps. To supplement the efforts of the national oil companies, international companies have been invited in three previous rounds of bidding to explore blocks offered in the country. In the Fourth Round of bidding, which is imminent, it is expected that a number of onland blocks would also be offered.

(d) Government have not received any such request from Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

**Standing Committee on Exclusion/
Inclusion of Drugs**

170. DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

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

(a) Whether the Standing Committee constituted to look into the representations against Kelkar Committee Report relating to exclusion/inclusion of certain drugs from the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 has since completed its work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). The Standing Committee constituted by the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals is a permanent Committee, to consider representations received by the Government from time to time on the issues concerning the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 including the inclusion/exclusion of bulk drugs under price control and to make its recommendations on the subject to the Government. In its first report, the Standing Committee has made recommendations with regard to major/minor ingredients, categorisation of combination formulations etc. which have been accepted and implemented by the Government. The other issues are before the Standing Committee and further details would be furnished after a final decision is taken by the Government.

Utilisation of Natural Gas

*171. SHRI B. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to