

(b) if so, whether a Central team visited the site and submitted a report:

(c) the estimated cost of the proposed project; and

(d) when it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (d) Two sites near Hospet identified by M s Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL). These sites were visited by a team of the Site Selection Committee for selection of sites for large thermal power Stations set up by the Department of Power. The Committee submitted its report in June, 1990. It is observed that the two sites at Vyasankera and Torangallu require a number of inputs to be tied up and require further investigations by M s KPCL. No feasibility report to set up a Super Thermal Power Plant at Hospet in Karnataka is under consideration.

Crude Oil Potential in North-East

*132. **SHRI MONORANJAN SUR:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Big crude oil potential in North-East" appearing in the 'Statesman' (Delhi edition) dated February 8, 1991;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter had already received the attention of the Government of India who have now constituted a multi-disciplinary, multi-organization Task Force to examine all

related issues such as estimation of reserves, identification of right kind of rocks coal for extraction of oil, the most cost-effective process for doing so, and to assess the impact of coal/shale mining on the environmentally fragile area where such coal/oil shales occur.

[Translation]

Standard of Catering Services

*133. **SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standard of catering services in the trains from New Delhi Delhi to Puri and Howrah is poor.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor

(c) whether the quality of the food has not improved despite increase in the prices per meal; and

(d) if so, the details of instructions given to check the irregularities and also to improve the standard of catering services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Quality is ensured irrespective of price. The following steps are taken for improving catering services:—

(i) Modernisation of Base Kitchens/Refreshment Rooms.

(ii) Introduction of Casserole Service.

(iii) Training of Staff and Supervisors

(iv) Elimination of Charcoal and use of LPG.

(v) Intensive inspections.

- (vi) Strengthening the level of Supervision.
- (vii) Revision of Menu.
- (viii) Provision of modern kitchen appliances and other equipments.
- (ix) Service of tea in thermos flasks with tea bags, milk and sugar separately in selected trains.
- (x) Random sampling of food items and their chemical analysis to ensure quality and to check adulteration.

Besides, surprise checks are conducted by the special squad of Railway Board and the Vigilance Department of Railways and stringent action taken against delinquent staff contractors on proven cases of irregularities.

[English]

Performance of Air India

*134. SHRI VASANT SATHE:
SHRI PRAKASH KOKO
BRAHMBHATT

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Air India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the performance during the current year, vis-a-vis the last two years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to improve the image and profitability of the Air India in view of the Gulf crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (d) According to

provisional estimates the net profit of Air India during the current year (April-December '90) is Rs. 47.48 crores, as compared to Rs. 38.40 crores in 1989-90 and Rs. 14.06 crores in 1988-89 for the corresponding period. The Gulf crisis has adversely affected all international carriers including Air India. Air India has taken steps to rationalize its route structure and effect economy in expenditure.

[Translation]

Conversion of Ghazipur-Jaunpur Railway Line

*135 SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 54 on August 7, 1990 and state the details of progress made regarding conversion of Ghazipur-Jaunpur metre-gauge (via Aurihar) section into broad-gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): Out of Ghazipur-Jaunpur MG line, conversion of only Aurihar-Ghazipur-Chhapra (171 km) has so far been sanctioned. Work is in progress on priority and adequate funds have been made available.

[English]

Completion of Tehri Dam Project

*136. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated cost of the Tehri Dam project and the time by which the project is expected to be completed;

(b) the power expected to be produced thereby; and

(c) whether the power would be available in phases for distribution while the project work is in progress?