

construct a railway line to linking Kakinada, Kotipalli and Amlapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The results of the survey carried out in 1987 has indicated that the project is unremunerative. The Railways are facing constraint of resources at present and therefore the work could not be sanctioned.

Oil Deposits in Arunachal Pradesh

3486. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where petroleum deposits have been found in Arunachal Pradesh and the likely quantity therefrom;

(b) whether any exploration work has been started there; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Commercially exploitable hydrocarbon deposits have been discovered in Kharsang and Kumchai in Arunachal Pradesh. The balance recoverable reserves of oil as on 1.1.1991 of these fields are 5.7 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) Exploratory drilling was started in Kharsang field in 1968 and in Kumchai field in 1977.

Superfast Train for Kerala

3487. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is heavy rush for reservation on Kerala-Mangala Express for Kerala and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to introduce another superfast train to Kerala atleast twice a week?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Some passengers remain on the waiting list.

(b) No, Sir.

Harnessing of Bio-Gas Energy

3488. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether harnessing of bio-gas energy would reduce the rate of deforestation of Garhwal hills;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up more bio-gas units in the region for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir. Harnessing of bio-gas energy is expected to reduce pressure on fuelwood consumption and thereby on the rate of deforestation.

(b) and (c) The State nodal department and Khadi and Village Industries Commission have taken up a target of setting up of 140 and 305 family type bio-gas units, respectively, for 1991-92 in five districts of Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh.

Premature Retirement of SC/ST Officials

3489. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railways officers removed or retired prematurely during 1987-1988 and 1989 and how many belonged to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes among them; and

(b) the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Information is as under:

Year	No. of removed/retired		
	Total	SC	ST
1987	12	3	1
1988	18	5	—
1989	21	5	—
Total	51	13	1