

(c) whether there is any proposal to declare Ahmedabad as an International Airport like Trivandrum Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 26-1-1991, Air India are operating a once weekly service between Bombay and Ahmedabad. This service connects with international flights between Bombay and U.K./U.S.A.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The existing international airports in the country are adequate to cope with the international traffic at present.

#### **Kandla-Bhatinda Railway Line**

1881. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in the construction of Kandla-Bhatinda broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): 2% of the conversion work of Kandla-Bhatinda line has been completed. 50 Km portion of Lalgargh-Merta Road section is targetted for completion during 1991-92.

The final location survey for Viramgam-Bhildi new line/gauge conversion portion has also since been completed.

#### **Pilferage of Coal**

1882. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal supplied to industrial units in Gujarat is found

under weight than recorded in the railway receipts; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check this pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) In some cases shortage was found after reweighment.

(b) To avoid pilferage in transit, RPF staff guard the coal rakes in the marshalling yards and escort them over vulnerable sections.

#### **Tapti gas to Gujarat**

1883. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated allocation for exploration of Tapti gas fields;

(b) how much gas from Tapti gas fields will be allocated to Gujarat, and

(c) the allocation of gas to Gujarat for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Some locations have been identified for drilling depending on the availability of resources and the inter-se priority. Allocations will depend on the availability and policies for the allotment of gas.

#### **Closure of Surat, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar Airports**

1884. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Surat, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar airports; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Indian Airlines is operating its services to Jamnagar and Bhavnagar. The Vayudoot operations to Surat and Bhavnagar have been discontinued due to commercial and operational reasons. There is no possibility of restoration of Vayudoot services to these stations at the present juncture.

### Import of Coal

1885. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN:  
SHRI ANBARASU ERA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint from any State Government regarding supply of inferior quality of coal by the Coal mines in Bihar;

(b) whether certain thermal power stations in Tamil Nadu have found it impracticable to use such coal as it affects the smooth production of power in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested for the import of high grade coal from Australia which will not only increase their power production but will also be cheaper in view of efficiency and cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received from State Governments and also from other consumers regarding supply of inferior quality of coal from a few coal mines in Bihar.

(b) No, Sir. Most thermal power stations are designed for using lower

grades of coal, mainly in the categories 'E' and 'F'. According to available information, Tamilnadu thermal power stations at Tuticorin, Ennore and Mettur received 20.74 lakh tonnes of coal from April-June, 1991, and consumed 19.86 lakh tonnes out of it in this period (almost 96%), the rest being used for stock building.

(c) and (d) Tamilnadu Government have requested for permission for one-time import of coal. Such requests had been received earlier also. On examination the imported coal is found to be much more expensive than indigenous coal. Imports would also cause drain of scarce foreign exchange resources.

(e) Steps are being taken to improve the quality of coal supplied to all consumers, including Tamilnadu Thermal Power Station. These include:—

(i) Picking out of the shale, stone, and extraneous material from coal during production of coal;

(ii) Joint sampling and improving supervision of wagon loading.

(iii) Keeping overburden benches sufficiently advanced from the coal bench to avoid contamination of coal;

(iv) mining of intervening benches separately.

### Re-naming of Vakaikulam Airport

1886. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of the Vakaikulam Airport near Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu has been completed;

(b) if so, when it will start to functioning and the details of flights proposed;

(c) whether the Government propose to name this airport after the