

speedy and uninterrupted means of communication to areas which have potential for growth.

Book-stall at Stations

4622. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s A. H. Wheeler are the only contractor of book stalls on railway stations; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and since when they have been allotted those contracts ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

New Tourism Policy

4623. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any national tourism policy based on the recommendations of Yunus Committee and Tata Committee Reports has been framed by the Union Government; if so, the details thereof:

(b) the details of main recommendations of these Committees which have been accepted and included in the new tourism policy; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) A review of the recommendations of the Yunus Committee and Tata Committee Reports has been initiated recently. The tourism policy would be formulated after this review and consultations with other agencies is completed.

[Translation]

Railway Passes to Freedom Fighters for Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express

4624. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether freedom fighters are not allowed to travel by Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allow them to travel in these trains on their passes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Normally fare paying passengers and Railway employees on Duty are allowed to travel by Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains.

[English]

Oil Fields Open for Alien Firms

4625. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the

news-item captioned "oil fields open for alien firms" appearing in the Times of India, Bombay, dated 12th July, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank is emphasizing the need for inviting foreign participation in oil exploration in view of the inability of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to speed up the work;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to improve the ability of the ONGC in oil exploration ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In order to supplement the efforts of ONGC and OIL Government has held three rounds of bidding for exploration in the past in which foreign companies had been invited to participate. Government has now approved the Fourth Round of bidding.

Parichha Thermal Power Plant

4626. SHRI VISHWANATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the remaining units of 220 megawatts are likely to be set up in the Parichha Thermal Power station of Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the reasons for delay in setting up these units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The proposal to set up 2 units of 210 MW each under Stage-II of the Parichha Thermal Power Station, Jhansi received from the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) in June, 1979, could not be considered for techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) as the essential inputs/clearances could not be tied up and was therefore returned to the UPSEB by CEA. No revised feasibility report in respect of the above proposal has been received in the CEA so far.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Express Trains at Bilpur (N. R.)

4627. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal regarding stoppage of express trains at Bilpur railway station on Northern Railway,

(b) if so, the names of the express trains proposed to be stopped at Bilpur railway station and when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present to provide stoppage of any additional Mail/Express trains at this station.

(c) Not found commercially justified.