

(a) the airports which are established in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) the steps being taken to absorb the local people for jobs in these airport establishments?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) There are three airports in Himachal Pradesh namely Kulu (Bhuntar), Shimla and Gaggal (Kangra). Kulu and Shimla airports belong to National Airports Authority. Government of Himachal Pradesh have constructed an airport at Gaggal (Kangra).

(b) In the airports controlled by National Airports Authority, Group 'D' posts have been filled locally. In Group 'C' posts, recruitments are made through local Employment Exchange.

Tellapur-Patancheru Railway Link

5129. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval for laying railway line from Tellapur to Patancheru to connect Hyderabad-Wadi broad-gauge line;

(b) whether the work on the project has been started;

(c) if so, when this project is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether it is also proposed to extend

the aforesaid railway line upto Sangareddy (Medak District Headquarters) and later to Medak finally to connect Kazipet-Balharsha railway line at Peddapally?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Will depend upon availability of resources and allocations to be made in the coming years to this project.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

Monopoly of A.H. Wheelers

5130. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of book stalls of A.H. Wheelers at railway stations, zone-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to end the monopoly of this company; and provide jobs to thousands of the unemployed persons; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The total number of book stalls held by M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. zone-wise are as under:—

| <i>Zone</i> | <i>Number of book stalls</i> |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| Central | 75 |
| Eastern | 42 |

| 1 | 2 |
|--------------------|-----|
| Northern | 48 |
| North Eastern | 46 |
| Northeast Frontier | 28 |
| Southern | Nil |
| South Central | 22 |
| South Eastern | 31 |
| Western | 72 |
| | 364 |

(b) and (c). M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. are not having a monopoly. They have only sole selling rights at those stations which have been specified in their agreements. As per extant policy, all new book stall contracts are reserved for cooperative societies of actual workers and vendors, unemployed, graduates, their partnerships, Associations, etc.

Production of Petroleum Products

5131. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL:
SHRI GULAB CHAND
KATARIA:

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

(a) the schemes under consideration of Government for increasing the production of petroleum products;

(b) whether efforts are being made to exploit oil and gas in different areas of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the

outcome therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Schemes envisaged for increasing production of petroleum products by augmentation of refining capacity include setting up of grass root refineries at Karnal, Mangalore, Assam and Cauvery basin. Proposals for 3 other grass-root refineries whose locations are yet to be finalised are in preliminary stage of consideration. In addition there are also proposals for low cost expansions/debottlenecking of the capacities of existing refineries. Some of the potential expansion projects envisaged are in respect of Cochin, Barauni, Digboi, Guwahati, Madras and Koyali refineries.

(b) and (c). Both the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) are conducting exploratory activities for oil and gas in Rajasthan. ONGC have so far undertaken drilling in 10 structures in Rajasthan and natural gas has been found in two structures viz. Manhera Tibba and Ghotaru. Oil India Limited has already drilled 4 exploratory wells in Jaisalmer basin and