

(a) whether some salt based industries in Gujarat are selling raw salt instead of using it as raw material to produce soda ash, caustic soda and other salt based products;

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

(c) whether small salt producers of Gujarat are facing difficulty to sell their raw salt in the market; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to put a ban on sale of raw salt by the industrial houses coming under the M.R.T.P. Act?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). M/s. Tata Chemicals Limited, M/s Century Chemicals Limited, and M/s Ballarpur Industries Limited, who are having their own captive salt works in Gujarat have been permitted domestic sale of salt in limited quantities both for edible and industrial purposes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Linking of Bhubneswar by Air

5170. SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places which were linked to Bhubneswar by air during the last two years;

(b) whether there is a proposal to link more places with Bhubneswar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) During the last two years Bhubneswar was linked by air to

Bhopal, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jeypore, Nagpur, Port Blair, Raipur, Rajamundry, Varanasi and Vishakhapatnam.

(b) and (c). Due to severe capacity constraints, there are at present no plans to airlink more places with Bhubaneswar.

Conversion of Madras Egmore-Chengalpet Railway Line into Broad Gauge

5171. SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Madras Egmore-Chengalpet (Southern Railway) track into a broad gauge;

(b) if so, when it will be taken up for implementation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Madras Egmore-Chengalpattu is the main gateway to MG network in Southern India and there is no proposal to convert MG lines there into BG at present.

Discontinuation of Vayudoot Service at Rajahmundry Andhra Pradesh

5172. SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vayudoot service to Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to