

aircraft at Singapore in the first week of July 1991;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the reasons for keeping them inside specifying the time for which they had to stay inside;

(c) whether the aircraft was again got stuck at Madras Airport and if so, the time spent in Madras; and

(d) the total hours after which the passengers reached Madras and Bombay as compared to the time generally taken by aircraft flying from Singapore to Madras and Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Flight AI-415 of 7th July 1991 developed a snag in the hydraulic system while taxiing for take off. 192 passengers were kept abroad for nearly six and a half hours due to the late hour as many of the facilities at the airport were closed at that time and it was hoped that the rectification of the snag would not take too much time.

(c) and (d) The snag in the hydraulic system reappeared while the aircraft was taxiing for take off at Madras. The passengers were held up in Madras for 7 hours 50 minutes. The total delay was 23 hours 35 minutes between Singapore and Bombay and 15 hours 45 minutes between Singapore and Madras.

Purchase of Helicopters

1765. SHRI R. JEEVRATHINAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of helicopters purchased from November 1989 to May, 91;

(b) the name of the countries from where these helicopters have been purchased for the use of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(c) the total cost of these helicopters and

(d) where these helicopters are being put to use at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) None.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Solar Plant in Jodhpur, Rajasthan

1766. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a solar plant in Jodhpur, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has considered this proposal;

(c) if so, whether financial approval has been granted to implement the said proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which financial approval is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The proposal can be put up to the Planning Commission as a Scheme in the Eighth Plan after techno-economic clearance has been accorded by the Central Electricity Authority.

[*English*]

Absorption of Surplus Workers Engaged in Steam Locomotives

1767. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of workers engaged in steam locomotives are

being rendered surplus due to elimination of steam locomotives; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to absorb those workers in other sectors of the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Because of progressive phasing out of steam locomotives, staff engaged on maintenance of these locos is becoming surplus. The surplus staff is not retrenched, instead they are redeployed in alternative categories on Railways by imparting training where considered necessary.

Pilferage of Power in Delhi

1768. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the major factors of power crisis in the capital is the theft and pilferage of power:

(b) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has recently detected hundreds of cases of power thefts and pilferage;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to further strengthen DESU's enforcement wing to check power thefts and pilferage; and

(d) the action being contemplated against those found involved in power thefts and pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) While there is no major power crisis in the Capital as such, a large number of cases of theft of electricity have been detected during the raids conducted by officials of DESU in various localities.

(c) and (d) DESU has set up two full fledged Enforcement Divisions for checking theft of electricity in the

Capital which are considered effective. The Government has already made 'theft of electricity' a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

ONGC Share in Narsapur Bridge

1769. SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has agreed to give fifty per cent share for the construction of bridge at Narsapur between East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There was a proposal for ONGC to share the cost of a bridge to be put up at Narsapur. It is reported that no construction work has been undertaken.

Reservation Counters of Delhi/New Delhi

1770. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the influence of brokers on reservation counters and black-marketing in sale of railway tickets and inconvenience being caused to the public at Delhi/New Delhi railway stations;

(b) whether the passengers have to wait for hours for their turn due to the slow speed of work at reservation counters;

(c) if so, the instructions likely to be issued to the staff in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?