

signed between India and China for mutual cooperation in the field of geophysics and mineral resources in January 1993; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the Govt. level on 18th January, 1993 at New Delhi for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources by providing for:

- a) exchange of scientists, experts and delegations and training of personnel;
- b) joint organization of workshops, seminars and symposia;
- c) exchange of published scientific and technical information geological publications, specimen and standard samples.

A programme of cooperation through exchange of delegations for the calendar years 1993 and 1994 has also been agreed to by the two Governments as part of the Memorandum of Understanding.

[English]

### **Compressed Natural Gas as Alternative Fuel**

463. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:  
SHRI N.K. BALIYAN:  
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has proposed the introduction of compressed

natural gas as a viable alternative fuel in the transport sector;

(b) if so, whether the technical viability of converting vehicles to run on compressed natural gas has been established; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and quantity of diesel and petrol likely to be saved by use of compressed natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c). The Indian Oil Corporation is participating with the Gas Authority of India Ltd. in its pilot project for using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel to petrol in Delhi, Bombay and Baroda. The technology of using CNG in the road transport vehicles is well-established but its adaptation to various types of vehicles plying in this country needs to be optimised technically and its financial viability established. As the project is in the experimental phase, it is too early to quantify the savings of petrol and diesel by the use of CNG.

### **Praveen and Pragma Examination**

464. SHRI PROBEN DEKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trainees appeared and passed Praveen and Pragma examinations separately from Guwahati during each of the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the number of trainees enrolled during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the gap between the number of enrolment and the number of examinees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a)