

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for setting up a gas distribution system to feed hundreds of small industries in Kanpur, Ferozabad, Agra, Khurja, Ghaziabad and NOIDA areas of U.P.;

(b) if so, the time by which the gas distribution system is likely to become operative; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) 0.23 MMSCMD has been allocated to industrial units around Ghaziabad. An allocation of 0.6 MMSCMD has been made for industrial units around Agra and Ferozabad.

(b) The units in Ghaziabad are being supplied gas. Gas supplies to the industries in Agra and Ferozabad are expected to commence in 1997.

(c) No allocation have been made in Kanpur, Khurja and NOIDA areas as the gas available is fully allocated.

Influx of Tamil Refugees from Sri Lanka

2213. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the influx of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka into India due to stepped up operations of Sri Lankan troops; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) So far no refugee is reported to have arrived from Sri Lanka into India due to stepped up operations of Sri Lankan troops.

(b) The Government of Tamil Nadu has alerted the District Collectors of Coastal Districts to take necessary measures for meeting any emergency in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Assistance from China in Coal Mining

2214. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI (DEEPA) KRISHNENDRA KAUR:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to seek financial and technical help from China in the field of coal mining;

(b) whether any discussion in this regard has been held between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) to (c). In accordance with the discussions held in the meeting of Indo-China Working Group on Coal, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has signed an agreement with China National Coal Mining Engineering Equipment Group Corporation (CME)

for the purchase of two sets of longwall equipment and one trunk belt conveyor system. In case of Coal India Limited (CIL), draft contracts have been finalised with CME of China for supply, commissioning and installation of longwall equipment in four underground projects of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).

Areas identified for Chinese assistance inter-alia include introduction of mechanised longwall mining under difficult strata conditions; mine construction works like shaft sinking; construction of washeries and utilisation of coal in form of briquettes etc.

[*English*]

Compressed Natural Gas

2215. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

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

(a) whether Government have advised all the Union Government departments to take steps towards an environment-friendly mode of transport by getting their vehicle's operational system converted into the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of various Government departments thereto; and

(d) the number of vehicles which have been converted into the CNG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Central Government Departments located in Delhi have been asked to convert their staff cars for operation on CNG, in a phased manner.

(c) and (d). A number of Government departments have responded positively and Govt. have drawn up a plan to convert initially 200 petrol driven vehicles of different departments to run on CNG. The conversion programme will commence from 21st August, 95.

Funds from Foreign Countries

2216. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of voluntary organisations are receiving the funds from the foreign countries in the name of uplifting the Scheduled Tribes and not utilising the same in the correct perspective;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed by the Government to ensure proper utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha on its receipt.