

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Through traction is changed, the permissible speed of the track, the load of the train, the path problems enroute, do not permit appreciable speeding up. However, where found feasible, trains have been speeded up at the time of change from steam to diesel/electric traction.

Letter of Intent to NOCIL

4266. SHRI VIDYADHAR GOKHALE:
SHRI HARSH VARDHAN:

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

(a) whether Government have rejected the request of the National Organic Chemicals Industries Limited for grant of a letter of intent in December, 1987;

(b) whether the company had been issued the letter of intent in November, 1989;

(c) if so, the reasons for the change in the decision;

(d) whether while granting such letter of intent, NOCIL was exempted from locational standard conditions required to be fulfilled for industrial licence; and

(e) if so, the propriety and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (e). The application of National Organic Chemical Industries Ltd. (NOCIL) for substantial expansion of its Naphtha Cracker Complex in District Thane, Maharashtra was rejected on prima facie basis in December, 1987 on locational considerations. NOCIL represented against the

rejection of its application and subsequently also produced NOC from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board as well as Department of Environment of Government of Maharashtra. NOCIL also indicated participation of Shell International in the equity of the project as also its own willingness to undertake export obligation.

On techno economic considerations a letter of intent for substantial expansion of capacity has been issued to NOCIL on November 16, 1989. The letter of intent inter-alia incorporates stringent additional conditions in regard to environmental aspect and it is upon fulfilment of these conditional only that the letter of intent would be considered for conversion into an industrial licence.

Thermal Power Projects of West Bengal

4267. SHRI BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sagardighi Thermal Power Project, the Balagarh Thermal Project and Purulia Pump Storage Scheme are proposed to be included in the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the estimated allocation of Central funds for electrification in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, the question of Central allocation for the above projects does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Reservation in Northern Coalfields Limited for local People

4268. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of jobs reserved for local people in various colliery projects of Northern Coalfields Limited, Singrauli in district Sindh (M P),

(b) whether required number of officers and employees have been employed in various projects in proportion to the above mentioned reservation as on 28 February, 1990,

(c) if so the category-wise details thereof and

(d) whether there is any provision for having representatives of Madhya Pradesh Government at the time of interview for filling up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) to (c) There is no reservation of jobs for local people as such for employment in various colliery projects of Northern Coalfields Ltd., Singrauli. Recruitment is generally made through local Employment Exchange. Preference in employment of unskilled/semi skilled workers is given to persons whose lands are acquired for coal projects. The local people thus get adequate opportunity for employment.

(d) Yes, Sir. The S. D. M. Waidhan, or his representative represents the Madhya Pradesh Government in the Selection Committee.

[English]

Investment by NRI in Kerala

4269 **SHRI PALAI K M MATHEW** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether NRIs have expressed willingness to start industries in Kerala provided Union Government guarantee secu-

ity of their investment and a reasonable return on investment;

(b) whether Government of Kerala has taken up this matter with Union Government,

(c) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) to (d) Since the inception of the Special Approval Committee (NRI) in November, 1983, 18 approvals have been accorded upto December, 1989 for issue of Letters of Intent/SIA Registration, approval of foreign collaborations and import of capital goods in respect of NRI projects in the State of Kerala as per the existing guidelines.

The State Government of Kerala have informed the Government of India recently that persons hailing from Kerala based in the United States have evinced interest in participating in the industrial development of Kerala through transfer of technology and financial investments. According to the State Government some proposals have also been received from Non-Resident Indians for setting up of industries and that the State Government have constituted a Coordination Committee for interacting with these NRIs to mobilise investments etc. Further, according to the State Government they have taken up with Unit Trust of India and Ministry of Finance in the Government of India the question of establishment of growth fund utilising NRI investments.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Agency in Palamau, Bihar

4270 **SHRI JORAWAR RAM** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state