

letter of intent for the manufacture of piston pin at Tehsil Rairangpur Distt. Mayurbhanj. This letter lapsed, and a new letter of intent was issued to the Corporation for the same project on 24.7.84, which was transferred in the name of M/s. Associated Pistons Ltd. on 30.4.85. The Government also approved a foreign collaboration for this project on 25.5.85. The letter of intent dated 24.7.84 again lapsed, as the company failed to implement the project within the stipulated period. In the meantime, the auto-ancillary industry was delicensed and the company was advised to go for registration under delicensing scheme, if they were interested in the project.

#### Setting up of Natural Gas Grid

90. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a national gas grid; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). National gas grid is a part of a long term perspective plan for natural gas transportation and utilisation. Its implementation will depend upon finding adequate quantity of gas for transportation through such a grid. The only interstate gas pipeline so far set up is the HBJ Pipeline.

#### Production of Coal during 1989-90

91. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the target set and the actual achievement regarding production of coal during the year 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): The overall target for

coal production during the current financial year (1989-90) was fixed at 209.50 million tonnes as per the following break up:—

Coal India Limited	183.50	million tonnes
Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	21.50	"
Captive mines of TISCO, IISCO and DVC	4.50	"
<b>Total</b>	<b>209.50</b>	<b>million tonnes</b>

During the first 11 months of the current year (i.e. April, 1989 to February, 1990) total production of coal has been 177.10 million tonnes.

[Translation]

#### Modernisation of Railways

92. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item Captioned "Bhartiya Railway Ko Adhunik Banane Ki Yojana Vicharadhin" appeared in the 'Dainik Tribune' dated 26 January, 1990;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this scheme; and

(d) the time schedule for implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Modernisation is a continuous process. For a high speed line between Delhi and

Kanpur a survey has been got done by a French company. Needs are assessed locally periodically and surveys done where necessary for all items of modernisation.

(c) and (d). This will depend on the size of the future Five Year Plans.

[English]

### Losses in Vayudoot

93. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative losses sustained by the Vayudoot since its inception till date as per latest information available with Government; and

(b) when did this Airline present its last Balance Sheet ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The cumulative losses sustained by Vayudoot since inception and upto 1986-87 were Rs. 1165.85 lakhs.

(b) The annual accounts of Vayudoot upto 1985-86 have been presented to the Parliament.

### Uniform power Tariff

94. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal Government has urged Union Government to fix a uniform power tariff and abolish the present system of bipartite agreements on tariff and supply between the various power agencies; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). No specific proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal for fixation of uniform power tariff and abolition of the present system of bipartite agreements on tariff for supply between various power agencies.

### Negotiations for jet purchases

95. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has started negotiations with some leading international aircraft manufacturers on the next round of its jet purchases;

(b) if so, the number of planes proposed to be acquired and their seating capacity;

(c) the countries with which negotiations have been started;

(d) the estimated capital outlay involved and how it is proposed to be met ; and

(e) the stage at which the negotiations stand and when the first lot of aircraft is expected to arrive in India?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (e). No negotiations have been started by Indian Airlines with the international aircraft Manufacturers. However, the Board of Indian Airlines desired Indian Airlines to take steps for induction of new aircraft during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. Indian Airlines has, approached the following manufacturers for obtaining technical details:-