

- (4) Conveyance Allowance, Sumptuary Allowance, House allowance, Furnishing Allowance, Daily Allowance, Electricity Allowance and Transfer Allowance.
- (5) Medical re-imbusement of medical fees and expenses of private doctors.
- (6) Travelling facilities.
- (7) Hospitality.
- (8) Security.
- (9) Flying the Flag—on their cars.
- (10) Carry forward of earned leave.

The above recommendations are receiving the attention of the Government.

[English]

#### Award of Contract for Pipes by Gas Authority of India

1498. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the fact that an Indian shipping company offerend very competitive rates, the Gas Authority of India has recently entered into a contract with a foreign shipping firm to bring 400,000 tonnes of pipes from Brazil, Europe and Japan;

(b) if so, the reasons for awarding the contract to a foreign shipping firm when the Indian shipping company offered competitive rates; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Taking into account the terms of credits available from OECF (Japan) KFW (FRG) and Italy, which cover freight also, the total freight quoted by line pipe suppliers works out to US \$ 13.71 million when discounted to net present value as against \$ 21.81 million of Transchart. Thus, there is a saving of about

US \$ 8.20 million (about Rs. 10 crores) by going in for shipment by suppliers.

In view of the above facts GAIL was permitted by the Government to enter into C and F contracts with the line pipe suppliers for import of 4.14 lakhs tonnes of pipes, for the HBJ gas pipeline prjoect. For the 26,500 tonnes of 18" pipes from Brazil, which is not covered by credit, GAIL has entered into FOB contract with the line pipe supplier and freight agreement with Transchart.

#### Setting up of separate High Court for North Eastern Region

1499. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed in favour of separate High Courts in the smaller States in North Eastern region at the recent conference of State Ministers held in the capital; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) In his address to the Conference of the Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States on 31-8-85, the Prime Minister favoured the formation of separate High Courts for each of the North Eastern States, subject to its feasibility and practicability being considered.

(b) The matter is engaging the attention of the Govt. of India in consultation with the concerned State authorities.

#### Use of Computers to Streamline Telephone Service

1500. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether computers are being used to streamline many of the seVICES in Delhi and other metropolitan telephone areas;