

(NTPC) had originally formulated a proposal for expansion of Anta Gas Power Project Stage II (430 MW) in 1988 considering gas as the main fuel to be supplied from HBJ pipeline. However, because of non-availability of gas, the proposal could not be processed further. The expansion project was reformulated in 1997 with a capacity of 650 MW with naphtha as a primary fuel with provision to switch over to Natural Gas/Liquefied Natural Gas as and when available. The project has been accorded linkage of naphtha in November, 1997. The project has also been techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority in August, 1998.

(b) and (c) Anta Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Station Stage I (413 MW) has gas allocation of 2 MCMD (comprising 1.75 MCMD of original linkage plus 0.25 MCMD reallocation diverted from Stage II to Stage I) which is adequate to operate the station at base full load.

Linkage of naphtha at 80% PLF for Anta Stage II is already available.

[Translation]

Road Network in the Country

3452. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 87 percent of the total passengers travel by road network and 65 percent of goods of the total goods are carried by it;

(b) if not, the assessment of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether 6.5 percent of the total plan outlay was allocated for road sector during the First Five year plan whereas it was on 5 percent during the Eighth Plan;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the percentage of funds proposed to be allocated on this head during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Government's assessment is that over 60 percent of freight traffic and 80 percent of passenger traffic is being carried on the road network.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The share of road sector has decreased from 1.5 percent of the total plan outlay in the First Five Year Plan to 0.6 percent in the 8th Five Year Plan.

(e) 9th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised and hence no details can be given at this stage.

Annual Reports on Environment

3453. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to enact a law pertaining to environment so as to make it obligatory for the States to submit annual environment report regularly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) does not arise.

[English]

Amendment to UGC Act

3454. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to Amend the University Grants Commission Act, 1956;

(b) if so, whether any task force has been set up to go into the loopholes of the Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission has submitted a comprehensive proposal for the amendment of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. A task force set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Amrik Singh is examining the proposal.

[Translation]

Power Stations in Maharashtra

3455. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install new power station or increase the capacity of the existing ones in view of the large quantity of coal is available in Maharashtra;