

which are undergoing 'C' checks, all the other 16 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines are available for operations. These aircraft are being roated and because of shortage of pilots, any 12 of them are flying on scheduled services every day.

NEWS-ITEM : GOVERNMENT ENDS BAN ON SUMITOMO

980. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government ends ban on Sumitomo" appearing in the Indian Express dated 12 April, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) when the ban was removed and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHAN-KARANAND) : (a) to (c) Orders issued to Public Sector Undertakings under the then Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals in December, 1989, not to give further business to the consortium of Japanese companies which functioned under the name of M/s. Sumitomo Corporation. These orders were withdrawn in May, 1991 after agreements between M/s. Sumitomo Corporation and ONGC;GAIL to refer their contractual dispute to arbitration.

WORKING OF REFINERY PROJECTS

981. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to examine the working of various refinery projects as they are incurring huge deficits; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHAN-KARANAND) : (a) The refineries are not incurring huge deficits.

(b) Does not arise.

KANDLA-BHATINDA PIPELINE PROJECT

982. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present stage of the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline project;

(b) whether the Government are facing any difficulties in completion/commissioning of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the curative steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHAN-KARANAND) : (a) The project has been approved by the Government on 29-8-1990. Work relating to acquisition of land, acquisition of right of way for the pipeline, appointment of backup consultants, technical evaluation of offers for composite works contract and yard coating is in progress and global tender for pipeline has been floated.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

983. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated plans to step up crude oil production;

(b) if so, the details and the targets fixed and the amount to be spent thereon;

(c) whether the targets are to be fixed by altering the existing level of production ratio; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The targets and outlay for the 8th Plan have not been finalised.

(c) and (d) Targets and optimal levels of production are fixed on the basis of the available reserves which can be exploited in the required time frame.

PARTICIPATION OF NRI IN OIL EXPLORATION

984. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approached the Non-Resident Indians for exploration of crude oil and natural gas in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The response of the Non-resident Indians so far ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN KERALA

985. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to State :

(a) Whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any scheme aimed at augmenting tourism infrastructure in the state :

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard ; and

(c) the amount allotted for Tourism Development Projects in Kerala during 1991-92 and the preceding two years ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir, The Government of Kerala has sub-

mitted proposals for improvement of tourism infrastructure which include setting up of air-conditioned restaurants ; upgradation of properties of Kerala Tourism Development Corporation and purchase of air-conditioned coaches. The scheme for air-conditioned coaches has been sanctioned for Rs. 16.68 lakhs.

(c) An amount of Rs. 87.00 lakhs has been earmarked for tourism projects in Kerala during 1991-92. Rs. 85.02 lakhs and Rs. 190.19 lakhs were sanctioned during 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY LINES IN KERALA

986. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the electrification of the railway lines in Kerala in near future ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Keeping in view general financial constraints and lower traffic density obtaining in sections in Kerala, there is no immediate proposal for electrification.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRIVANDRUM AND PALGHAT RAILWAY DIVISION

987. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the expenditure incurred for the development of railway projects in Trivandrum and Palghat Divisions during 1990-91 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Expenditure incurred for the development of Railway pro-