

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Indian Airlines is operating its services to Jamnagar and Bhavnagar. The Vayudoot operations to Surat and Bhavnagar have been discontinued due to commercial and operational reasons. There is no possibility of restoration of Vayudoot services to these stations at the present juncture.

Import of Coal

1885. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN:
SHRI ANBARASU ERA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint from any State Government regarding supply of inferior quality of coal by the Coal mines in Bihar;

(b) whether certain thermal power stations in Tamil Nadu have found it impracticable to use such coal as it affects the smooth production of power in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested for the import of high grade coal from Australia which will not only increase their power production but will also be cheaper in view of efficiency and cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received from State Governments and also from other consumers regarding supply of inferior quality of coal from a few coal mines in Bihar.

(b) No, Sir. Most thermal power stations are designed for using lower

grades of coal, mainly in the categories 'E' and 'F'. According to available information, Tamilnadu thermal power stations at Tuticorin, Ennore and Mettur received 20.74 lakh tonnes of coal from April-June, 1991, and consumed 19.86 lakh tonnes out of it in this period (almost 96%), the rest being used for stock building.

(c) and (d) Tamilnadu Government have requested for permission for one-time import of coal. Such requests had been received earlier also. On examination the imported coal is found to be much more expensive than indigenous coal. Imports would also cause drain of scarce foreign exchange resources.

(e) Steps are being taken to improve the quality of coal supplied to all consumers, including Tamilnadu Thermal Power Station. These include:—

- (i) Picking out of the shale, stone, and extraneous material from coal during production of coal;
- (ii) Joint sampling and improving supervision of wagon loading.
- (iii) Keeping overburden benches sufficiently advanced from the coal bench to avoid contamination of coal;
- (iv) mining of intervening benches separately.

Re-naming of Vakaikulam Airport

1886. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of the Vakaikulam Airport near Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu has been completed;

(b) if so, when it will start to functioning and the details of flights proposed;

(c) whether the Government propose to name this airport after the

late Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The target date for completion of the Tuticorin airport is 30th September, 1991.

(b) There is no plan at present for Vayudoot starting any service to Tuticorin.

(c) No, such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Uniform Power Tariff

1887. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is wide variation in the power tariff rates for identical consumers in contiguous areas in Northern region of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to prescribe uniform power tariff rates for identical consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The power to fix tariffs for various categories of consumers rests with the respective State Electricity Boards, who may be guided by such directions as the State Governments may give in the matter of

relative priorities and concessions and, therefore, there is no uniformity in power tariffs between different States.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Pricing Policies of State Electricity Boards

1888. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study conducted by the Energy Conservation Cell and the Centre for Advanced Information, Analysis and Studies have pointed out that the various State Electricity Boards in North India have uneconomic pricing policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Energy Conservation Cell/Energy Management Centre under the Department of Power have not conducted any such study. Government is also not aware of the study conducted by the Centre for Advance Information, analysis and Studies.

(c) The enclosed statement indicates the financial position of the SEBs in Northern India. It has been the endeavour of Government of India to improve the financial performance and profitability of the State Electricity Boards. The State Governments have been impressed upon from time to time at various forums to manage the operations of the State Electricity Boards in such a manner