

dum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Aluminum Company Limited and the Ministry of Mines.

[Placed in the Library, See No. LT 2263/92]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need For Setting up a New Gas Terminal at 4 SAR**

[English]

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE (Jaina) : The problem of reducing flaring of natural gas in the Bombay High Fields has been under the consideration of the Government of India for a long time. There has been lot of correspondence between the Government of Maharashtra and Government of India on the subject. The Government of Maharashtra had written to the Prime Minister making a detailed case for the off-shore gas being used in the western region by setting up of a second gas terminal at USAR instead of its diversion to Hazira through a new pipeline between South Bassein and Haxira. The alternative schemes suggested by Maharashtra could be implemented at a relatively lower cost and in a shorter span of time which would benefit a large number of people in Maharashtra.

It appears that the Union Government has not taken cognizance of all relevant aspects of the alternative schemes suggested by Maharashtra and has accorded approval for laying of the second off-shore pipeline between South Bassein and Hazira for diversion of gas for use of prospective users in the north at exorbitant cost. This measure would starve the people of Maharashtra.

I urge upon the Central Government to reconsider the matter and give an opportunity to the Government of Maharashtra to present an alternative proposal with better economics for reduction of gas flaring and also declare USAR as the site for the setting up of second gas terminal for Bombay High/South Bassein gas.

(ii) **Need to ensure that regional office of Railway Recruitment Board was not shifted from Kerala.**

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum):

There was a news item that the Railway Recruitment Board Regional Office at Trivandrum is being closed and arrangements for shifting certain sections from the Regional Office to Madras are being made. The people of Kerala are agitated over this. Kerala is the most highly educated State of the country and the problem of unemployment of the educated is very acute there. The largest number of applications for the recruitments in the Southern Railway are from Kerala. If the Regional office which is now functioning in Trivandrum is shifted from there, it would create undue hardship to a very large number of candidates who are now having their interviews and psychological and other physical tests in Trivandrum.

I, therefore, earnestly urge upon the hon. Minister for Railways to intervene and drop the proposal, if any.

(iii) **Need to provide more funds to Madhya Pradesh Government for drought relief in Mandla district.**

[Translation]

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mandla is one of the many districts of Madhya Pradesh which is hit by drought since last year. Both the