

have sought enhancement in the rates of royalty.

(f) The Government had decided to revise the rate of royalty on crude oil with effect from 1.4.1987. However, the Chief Minister of Gujarat requested that the entire question of revision of royalty should be referred to a Committee. The question of setting up a Committee is now under the consideration of the Government.

Rogatory Letter to Switzerland for A-320 Airbus Deal

1932. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to send a rogatory letter to Switzerland seeking the seizure of vital Swiss Bank documents and examination of witnesses in connection with the A-320 Airbus deal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Bureau of Investigation has already registered a regular case No. 2(A)/90-ACU(II) on 29.3.90. in this regard. The case is under investigation.

Power Shortage in Northern and Southern Regions

1933. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern and Southern regions continue to face severe power shortage;

(b) whether it is proposed to utilize the off peak surplus power available in the

Western region to mitigate the power shortage to some extent;

(c) whether absence of a strong inter-regional link is responsible for the flaring of Bombay high gas which could otherwise be utilised for generating power at Uran power station of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board; and

(d) whether Government propose to make sufficient provision of funds during the Eighth Plan for a strong inter-regional link between the Western and Southern Regions for proper utilisation of surplus of one region or the other?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). Northern Region is expected to have peaking shortage during 8th & 9th Plan and would have energy shortage only in the 8th Plan. In case of Southern Region, there would be peaking as well as energy shortages during 8th & 9th Plan periods. The Western Region is expected to have peaking shortage but energy surplus during 8th & 9th Plan. The surplus energy available in any Region is being utilised to mitigate the shortages in other Regions of the country.

(c) No, Sir. The reasons for gas flaring in Bombay High is due to non availability of evacuation facilities in terms of compression and submarine pipelines from off-shore to on-shore. A linkage of 4.5 McMD of gas has already been confirmed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the existing 672 MW Uran Gas Turbine Stations in Maharashtra where installation of 3 x 120 MW Waste heat Units are also in progress for commissioning during the 8th Plan.

(d) An Inter-ministerial Group has been set up under the Chairmanship of Adviser (Energy), Planning Commission, to examine issues relating to the construction of pipeline