

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY):** (a) and (b). Three test sites have been explored by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the East and West Champaran districts of Bihar and one more test site is available for drilling. However, so far no hydrocarbon indications were found. It is too early to comment on the potential of the area for production of oil and gas.

(c) ONGC plans to drill the remaining earmarked location. Further programme would depend on the results of this drilling.

Oil India Ltd. has also applied to the State Governments for petroleum Exploration Licence for a block measuring approximately 33,000 Sq. Km. in the Gandak basin falling in both Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Western Bihar and plan to carry out seismic surveys and some exploratory drilling in the area in the VIII Plan period.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Air Services Between Agartala and Calcutta**

2047. **SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of inadequate air services between Agartala and Calcutta;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c). At present Indian Airlines is facing severe capacity constraints due to suspension of A-320 services. Indian Airlines has a proposal to increase seat capacity on the Agartala-Calcutta sector after the reinduction of A-320 aircraft. Vayudoot is already operating a daily F-27 service and three Dornier services on three days a week on this sector.

#### **Train Between Bangalore and Delhi**

2048. **SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRI-YAPPA:**  
**SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is only one train daily between Bangalore and Delhi;

(b) whether there is also great rush in the train and the waiting list runs too long;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the number of bogies to 21;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some passengers remain on the waiting-list.

(c) The train is already running with 21 bogies.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.