

(a) whether there was heavy loss of life and property in the devastating fire caused by the rail tankers filled with crude Naptha in 1990 near Negda station of Western Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of enquiry conducted in the matter and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). There was no loss of life in the incident. The cost of damage to railway property is estimated to be Rs. 2.42 crores approximately. The enquiry conducted by the department in the matter has not held any railway employees responsible for the fire. According to Enquiry Committee the cause of the fire was formation of vapour clouds due to inadequate vapour space in the tank wagons and also due to overflow of the contents.

The findings of the Enquiry Committee have been forwarded to Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals who are required to take the follow up action.

[English]

Chair Cars In Express Trains

1868. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide chair cars in some Express Trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). Provision of Chair cars in trains is a continuous process depending upon traffic requirements and availability of coaches.

Expansion and Development of Udaipur and Hamirgarh Airports

1869. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MEWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of expansion and other facilities proposed to be provided at Udaipur and Hamirgarh airports between Bhilwara and Chittorgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): Subject to availability of funds the terminal complex at Udaipur airport is proposed to be upgraded by the National Airports Authority. Hamirgarh Airports belongs to Government of Rajasthan and the National Airports Authority has no plans of providing facilities there.

Electrification of Railway Lines

1870. PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comparative study of electric/diesel/steam traction has been undertaken by the railways;

(b) if so, whether electric traction is found to be the cheapest in addition to being non-pollutant;

(c) if so, whether steps are being taken to undertake electrification projects in an efforts to increase the electric traction and reduce consumption of diesel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, in some cases depending upon traffic density of the route, costs of electrical energy, diesel oil etc. and operational advantages.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, Electrification is being done in a planned manner, During the 7th Plan 2612 route Kms were electrified. Work is currently in progress in about 2600 Kms which are programmed to be completed during the VIII Plan.

**Multi Disciplinary Integrated Approach
by ONGC**

1871. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-disciplinary integrated approach by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been adopted in the new organisational set up in order to achieve close coordination and working among the various groups associated with the implementation of the project during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to strengthen the project management system in ONGC the project management groups concerned with formulation and implementation of the projects have been made multi disciplinary by drawing personnel from different disciplines in the Commission. This is expected to achieve better coordination among the different groups in the Commission and outside agencies connected with the projects. A three level monitoring system has also been introduced for effective monitoring of the projects.

**Movement of Rail Traffic Due to
Shortage of Petroleum**

1872. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cut in diesel supplies has resulted in reducing the movement of rail transport leading to rise in prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take for the free movement of rail transport?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Movement of freight by rail per se has not suffered for no cut has been enforced in the supplies of diesel oil to Indian Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

**Supply of Food by Private Contractors
to IA and AI**

1873. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated yearly expenditure which the Air India incurs in India and abroad on its catering in flight and on ground;

(b) the manner in which such catering contracts are entered into both in India and abroad and how these were concluded during the current year—the names of the firms given the contracts;

(c) the reasons why the Air India and the Indian Airlines do not get their food-stuffs in the domestic flights and those taking off from India from the Hotel Corporation of India's Hotels in Bombay and New Delhi instead of from the contractors; and

(d) what are the difficulties which lie in the way of the Hotel Corporation of India's Hotels in improving their stuff and bring it at par with the private contractors etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Air India's expenditure on catering, for the year 1989-90 was as under—