

frequency of Vidarbha Express from Nagpur to Bombay from tri-weekly to daily basis in view of increasing need;

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to be cleared;

(c) the steps being taken to replace old compartments of Vidarbha Express and provide better facilities on this train; and

(d) the details of measures taken/proposed during the current year to provide A.C. II Class and other facilities to Maharashtra Express?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.
(c) The replacement of old coaches on age-cum-condition basis is an ongoing process. Coaches in use have all the standard passenger amenities.

(d) Presently there is no proposal to provide A.C. 2-tier coach by Maharashtra Express.

Printing of "Swagat" Publication by Indian Airlines

*382. SHRI G. M. BANAT-WALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflight magazine "Swagat" of the Indian Airlines is printed and published by a foreign firm;

(b) if so, the amount paid for bringing out the publication;

(c) the terms of agreement with the firm;

(d) the amount of outflow of foreign exchange consequent to getting the publication printed and published abroad;

(e) whether Government propose to bring out the publication indigenously; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The inflight magazine "Swagat" of Indian Airlines is printed and published by a firm named M/s Media Transasia Ltd. incorporated in Hongkong, owned by a non-resident Indian.

(b) No amount is paid by Indian Airlines for bringing out the publication.

(c) Under the agreement, the said publisher provides every month 60,000 copies of the inflight magazine free of cost to Indian Airlines for placement on board its flights for the benefit of passengers. The publisher meets the cost of publication through the revenue earned from advertisements in the "Swagat".

(d) There is no outflow of foreign exchange.

(e) and (f) So far no Indian Party could offer such attractive terms and quality as M/s Media Transasia Ltd. Besides, the agreement with the said publishers will expire only in May, 1993.

Hike in Electricity Meter Rent by DESU

*383. SHRI MANORANJAN SUR:

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DESU had increased the electricity meter rent by 300 per cent from April, 1989;

(b) whether the Administrator of Delhi Municipal Corporation passed an order withdrawing the hike in May, 1990;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether DESU is still charging meter rent as raised in 1989 and has not carried out the order of MCD; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to implement MCD order and when the refund will be adjusted?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (e) The DESU has increased the monthly rates of the meter rents from Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 for single phase; Rs. 5.25 to Rs. 16.50 for Low Tension Poly Phase; Rs. 10 to 26.00 for Low Tension/Current Transformer meters and Rs. 120 to Rs. 310 for High Tension/Low Tension two and three Vector energy meters with effect from 1-4-1989.

The Administrator, Municipal Corporation of Delhi has directed the DESU to seek formal approval of the Delhi Electric Supply Committee/Municipal Corporation of Delhi for regularising the increase in the meter rent. Since the orders for the increase in the meter rents have not been withdrawn, the DESU is charging at the revised rates and has also initiated action for obtaining the approval of the DESC/MCD as per the directions of the Municipal Administrator.

[Translation]

Joint Sector Petrochemical Unit at Hazira in Gujarat

*384. **SHRI C. D. GAMIT:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had taken a decision long back to set up a petrochemical unit in joint sector with Central and State Government's collaboration at Hazira in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not setting up this petrochemical unit so far; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of this unit would be started and when it is likely to be completed and start production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) At one stage, a petrochemicals complex near Hazira in Gujarat was considered, as a joint venture between the Central and State Governments and the public. The proposal did not, however, materialise, due mainly to resource constraints.

[English]

Appointments in I.D.P.L.

*385. **DR. ASIM BALA:**

SHRI MADANLAL KHURANA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain senior posts like General Manager (Sales), etc. in the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited have been recently filled up;

(b) if so, what procedure was followed to make these appointments;

(c) whether their selection has been approved by the Bureau of Public Enterprises; and

(d) if not, the circumstances under which the relevant appointments have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the approval of Board of Directors of the company and in the light of the guidelines given by it, selection was made.

(c) As the posts were below Board level approval of the Bureau of Public Enterprises was not required.

(d) Does not arise.