

(b) if so, the purpose, amount spent and names of countries from which these helicopters were hired during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Transportation of Gas by GAIL

*405. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:

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

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has been allowed to undertake bulk transportation of natural gas in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing GAIL to transport gas which according to the ONGC Act of 1979 is the function of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(c) whether a Committee consisting of the representatives of the ONGC, GAIL and Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals had been set up to go into the issue involving bulk transportation of gas and transfer of assets from the ONGC; and

(d) if so, the recommendations of the Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The Gas Authority of India Limited has been set up in 1984 with the objectives of, among other things, undertaking the work of transporting marketing and processing of natural gas. In line with these objectives, GAIL have already taken up the HBJ project and are currently transporting gas along this pipeline and supplying gas to various bulk consumers along the pipeline. In accordance with

the original decision and keeping in mind the need for an appropriate organizational arrangement for the work of production and utilisation of natural gas, it has been decided, after fully taking into account the views of ONGC and GAIL, that as a rule ONGC will restrict itself to production of gas and its transportation upto designated points. Beyond this point, GAIL will take over the work of transportation marketing and processing of gas.

(c) and (d). No committee has been formed for examining the question of transfer of assets and responsibilities from ONGC to GAIL. Details of the transfer are being worked out.

[*Translation*]

Regularisation of casual Gangmen in Railways

*406. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of casual gangmen working in Railways;

(b) whether there is any proposal for regularising the services of casual gangmen working in Danapur Division of Eastern Railway as per their seniority;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) As on 1.1.1990 approximately 71,000 Casual Gangmen are working on Zonal Railways (The figures are provisional).

(b) to (d). Yes, Sir. On the Eastern Railway 6310 posts of Gangmen have been sanctioned for decasualisation. Of these 6310 posts, 868 have been earmarked for Danapur Division. 798 of these posts have already been filled.