

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to tackle the financial crisis faced by the Vayudoot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (c) Government is considering various options regarding the future set up of Vayudoot Limited. No final decision has yet been taken in this matter.

[*English*]

Safety Measures in Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.

129 SHRI RAM NAIK. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the news-item captioned "Gallantary awards for CISF men mooted" appearing in the 'Indian Express' (Bombay Edition) dated November 10, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the Government are considering enhancement of relief amount given to CISF personnel so as to make it equivalent to the relief being given to the employees of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter and the time-bound programme drawn up for the implementation of the decision;

(c) whether safety measures were taken and medical help provided by the IPCL, and

(d) if not, the action taken proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) IPCL has already announced ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1 lakh to the next of kin of all those including CISF personnel, who died in the Negothane accident and Rs. 50,000 to each injured person.

(c) and (d) Immediate medical attention was given to all those affected in the accident. One CISF employee is still undergoing treatment in Bombay. The medical treatment expenses are being met by IPCL. Action is already in hand to strengthen the safety measures.

Shortage of Petroleum Products in Karnataka

*130. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of petroleum products in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The availability position of petroleum products in Karnataka is comfortable. However, reports have been received about some shortage of High Speed Diesel.

(b) and (c) HSD supplies to retail outlets throughout the country are presently being maintained at the same level as in the corresponding period of the previous year. This restriction on HSD releases has resulted in some shortages in different parts of the country, including Karnataka. The position is being monitored closely to ensure, to the extent possible, adequate availability of petroleum products throughout the country.

Setting up of Super Thermal Power Station at Hospet in Karnataka

*131. SHRI H. C. SRIKANTAJAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Super Thermal Power Plant at Hospet in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether a Central team visited the site and submitted a report:

(c) the estimated cost of the proposed project; and

(d) when it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (d) Two sites near Hospet identified by M s Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL). These sites were visited by a team of the Site Selection Committee for selection of sites for large thermal power Stations set up by the Department of Power. The Committee submitted its report in June, 1990. It is observed that the two sites at Vyasankera and Torangallu require a number of inputs to be tied up and require further investigations by M s KPCL. No feasibility report to set up a Super Thermal Power Plant at Hospet in Karnataka is under consideration.

Crude Oil Potential in North-East

*132. **SHRI MONORANJAN SUR:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Big crude oil potential in North-East" appearing in the 'Statesman' (Delhi edition) dated February 8, 1991;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The matter had already received the attention of the Government of India who have now constituted a multi-disciplinary, multi-organization Task Force to examine all

related issues such as estimation of reserves, identification of right kind of rocks coal for extraction of oil, the most cost-effective process for doing so, and to assess the impact of coal/shale mining on the environmentally fragile area where such coal/oil shales occur.

[Translation]

Standard of Catering Services

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

(a) whether the standard of catering services in the trains from New Delhi Delhi to Puri and Howrah is poor.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor

(c) whether the quality of the food has not improved despite increase in the prices per meal; and

(d) if so, the details of instructions given to check the irregularities and also to improve the standard of catering services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Quality is ensured irrespective of price. The following steps are taken for improving catering services:—

(i) Modernisation of Base Kitchens/Refreshment Rooms.

(ii) Introduction of Casserole Service.

(iii) Training of Staff and Supervisors

(iv) Elimination of Charcoal and use of LPG.

(v) Intensive inspections.