

link the Gouda district of Bihar with Panjagar rail halt; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Industrial Alcohol

108. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO NANASAHEB GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any proposal to increase the export of industrial alcohol from 200 million liters to about 700 million liters;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, by what time the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Keeping in view the likely surpluses and available infrastructure for exports, 200 million litres of alcohol has been allowed for export. More quantities will be allowed for exports, if the situation so warrants.

Hiring of Helicopters

109. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries from where Government have hired helicopters and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) whether these helicopters were fully utilised for the purpose for which they were hired and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether some helicopters were sent back and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN). (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Petroleum Products to Karnataka

110. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have reduced the supply of kerosene and petrol to Karnataka;

(b) if so, the extent to which kerosene and petrol have been reduced;

(c) the total quantity supplied previously; and

(d) the details of reduction made to other States?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) (b) and (d). There has been no reduction in supply of petrol to Karnataka. However, due to severe constraint of foreign exchange resources, allocation of kerosene to all states has been reduced for the monsoon block this year by agreeing to only 4% rate of growth as compared to 7% agreed for the corresponding period last year.