

Railways are provided with uniforms;

(b) if so, the category-wise details thereof; .

(c) whether Government propose to provide uniforms to all sections of Railway employees to bring parity; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES); (a) Uniforms are supplied only to certain specified categories of Railway employees.

(b) The categories of Railway staff who are eligible for uniforms are classified into 42 groups under the Railway Dress Regulations, which contain complete details of type of uniforms (summer and winter), style of uniform, scale of supply etc. Some of the important categories of staff who are given uniforms are Station Superintendents, Station Masters, Guards, Drivers, Ticket Checking staff, Catering staff, Reservation Clerks, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Uniforms are provided only to those categories of staff who either come into contact with the public and are required to be identified by them or whose duties are such as to warrant supply of uniforms.

Racket in Supply of Cooking Gas

9794. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether racket is going in the name of supply of cooking gas for which some companies are taking fat deposits from intending agents/buyers and after supply of a few instalments of gas, the buyer are being

duped and cheated in the dimension of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop this racket;

(c) the names of companies found involved in such rackets; and

(d) how these companies have secured permission for selling such cooking gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). Government is not aware of any such racket so far as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is concerned. However, advertisements appearing from time to time offering alternate cooking fuel, which is not Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) have come to the notice of Government. Products so advertised are Liquid Product of Cellulose (LPC), Callgas, L.P. Kitchen Gas, Hindugas, Binatone Blue Flame etc. The concerned State governments have been asked to investigate the genuineness of the companies involved in this regard and to take necessary steps to ensure that the customers are not duped by any unscrupulous elements. Besides, the Department of Explosives had also requested all the State Governments to take action under the Petroleum Act and Rules against parties involved in such cooking gas business and to seize the solvent stored without licence.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Coal

9795. SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKATA:
SHRI ANBARASSU ERA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantities of coal is smuggled from the coal mines of Bihar every month illegally;

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate to conduct an inquiry in this matter and take action against those found guilty; and

(c) the preventive measures being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). No reports are available about huge quantities of coal being smuggled from the coal mines of Bihar every month illegally.

However, there are instances where the Bihar police has succeeded in catching hold of some parties/persons engaged in smuggling/illegal trading in coal. Illegal mining operations are conducted sporadically and surreptitiously in abandoned and isolated closed mines. FIRs have been lodged with the local police whenever instances of illegal mining come to the knowledge of the coal companies. The security personnel of the

coal companies are maintaining strict vigil in their areas in order to prevent smuggling and pilferage of coal.

Assistance for Power Projects by O.E.C.F.

9796. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether multilateral agencies, including Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan, were contacted during 1989 for obtaining foreign assistance to set up power projects;

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

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). During 1989-90, the following projects were negotiated with multilateral agencies, including the OECF.