

fitted with catalytic converters and designed to use unleaded petrol. By and large, it has not been considered technically feasible or economically viable to retrofit older vehicles with catalytic converters, bearing in mind Indian conditions and the economic costs involved not being commensurate with the environmental advantage realised. It has been felt more advantageous to concentrate on ensuring that new vehicles are fitted with catalytic converters and allowing older vehicles to be gradually phased out.

(b) the measures being taken for control of pollution from on-road vehicles include the following:

- (i) State Transport Authorities have been asked to enforce the standards stipulated for on-road vehicles;
- (ii) Lead level is planned to be reduced to a maximum of 0.15 grammes per litre in petrol to be supplied throughout the country by December, 1996.
- (iii) Intensive awareness campaigns have been launched by Transport Departments of States, to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards and about the measures for keeping the emission levels low.
- (iv) Various Government Departments have been asked to get the vehicles in their administrative control checked regularly and suitable measures be taken to ensure that the emissions are within the prescribed limits.
- (v) A major survey was carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board on the pollution caused by automobiles in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the Survey have been used to prepare comprehensive programmes for con-

trol of pollution in the major cities.

- (vi) City planners have been advised to incorporate in their plan the long-term requirements of mass transportation.
- (vii) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas in petrol driven vehicles in some of the cities.

Crude oil reserves in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

2272. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crude oil reserves have been found at Lakhimpur, Dhewaji and Jonai in Assam, Ruksm, Oyaw, Sille and Rasighat in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) when exploration of crude oil likely to take place in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Plans are in hand to drill about six locations in Lakhimpur area soon during 1995-96, based on the results of seismic interpretation. One block in Lakhimpur district covering an area of 4200 Sq. Kms. in Lakhimpur, Dhakuakhana, Bihpuria, Majuli etc. has been offered to foreign/ Indian oil companies in Joint Venture Exploration Programme, 1995, date of submission of bids for which is 15th September, 1995.

Construction of Rail Overbridge at National Highway 46

2273. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to construct a Railway Overbridge at National Highway 46 Madras in Bangalore Road Vaniy-ambadi Pudur and Ambur Pachakuppam in North Arcot District;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to put up a level crossing at Chitheri Village near Arconam, Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Construction of overbridge to replace level crossing No. 77 at Km. 175/16-176/1 on National Highway No. 46 between Ambur-Pachakuppam is a sanctioned work in Railways Works Programme of 1990-91 at a cost of Rs. 4.45 cr. (Railway's share Rs. 2.04 cr. and State Govt.'s share Rs. 2.41 cr.). Approval of General Arrangement drawing ' for this work is awaited from Ministry of Surface Transport.

Acquisition of Forest land in Sikkim

2274. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Forest Land at Munisthing in North Sikkim had been acquired by the Army and in lieu thereof lands had to be acquired under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 in Sikkim;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Regional Conservator of Forests had investigated and confirmed these illegal transfers;

(c) what was the status of these Reserve Forest and- Khas lands as mentioned in the site inspection report of the Regional C.C.F. as per 1952 and 1978-80 Survey; and

(d) what action has been taken and what has obstructed the Government in

giving consent of the CBI probe, as demanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) The matter was enquired into through the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar, whose investigation report has been sent to the State Government for detailed comments.

No such proposal for diversion of forest land in question under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been received by this Ministry from the State Government so far.

Deportation of Convicted Pakistani Nationals

2275. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani nationals convicted for offences in the country cannot be deported after their Jail term is over since there are no arrangements between the two Governments; and

(b) what action Government propose to take in deporting such convicted Pak nationals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India and Pakistan had concluded a "Protocol on Consular Access" in November, 1982 according to which consular access is provided to nationals of either country arrested, detained or imprisoned to facilitate their repatriation. Repatriation of such prisoners is made in accordance with this protocol.

Publication of Railway Time Table

2276. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: