

(b) what amount of revenue is generally earned from Assam coal by the West Bengal Government; and

(c) whether Government of Assam also gets revenue from it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) Assam coal despatched by rail to steel plants is transhipped from metre gauge wagons to broad gauge wagons at Kamakhyaguri which is located in West Bengal. The Govt. of West Bengal does not get any revenue from this transhipment.

(c) Govt. of Assam is presently levying Assam Land Tax at the rate of Rs. one hundred per tonne of coal. It also levies Sales Tax on sale of coal within the State. In addition the State Govt. collects royalty on coal, the existing rate being Rs. six and paise fifty only per tonne of coal despatched.

Continuing of Gulf Surcharge

1032. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gulf surcharge was introduced by Government for meeting the cost of bringing the Indian citizens back home during the recent gulf war;

(b) if so, how long will this stay;

(c) whether the passengers brought back from gulf are required to pay their fare amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHA RAO SCINDIA): (a) In the wake of an all round increase in costs following the Gulf crisis, it became necessary to impose the Gulf surcharge.

(b) Discontinuance of the surcharge is not under consideration now.

(c) No fare was charged by Air India and Indian Airlines for evacua-

tion of the Indian nationals from the Gulf region.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of LPG cylinders

1033. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal was received from Haldia Precision Engineering Private Limited, Calcutta for commercial production of LPG cylinders;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the above company had successfully carried out the trial fabrication to the minute specifications of the Bureau of Indian Standards and Controller of Explosives;

(c) if so, whether Government have given clearance for commercial production of LPG cylinders to the above company and advised the Indian Oil Corporation to place orders with the company; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, according to IOC.

(c) and (d) No advice has been given by the Government to the IOC in this regard. IOC places orders for new LPG cylinders as per policy.

Weighing of coal in Western Coal fields Collieries.

1034. SHRI SOM PAL: SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first week of the May, 1991, at Junnar Deo C. Railway on finding weigh bridge out of order 95 wagons were filled in and were arbitrarily deemed to be weighed and when subsequently

weighed on machine found the difference by 0.25 M.T. to 16.5 M.T. costing nearly Rs. 5 lakhs;

(b) whether it is a fact that weigh bridges in the collieries of Western Coalfields are made to remain out of order or are outdated and therefore frequent break downs occur.

(c) whether it is also a fact that Junnar Deo Weigh bridge is operating only for half the days of the year; and

(d) what corrective steps are being taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUA): (a) According to information furnished by Western Coalfields Ltd., (WCL), Junnardeo weighbridge was out of order during the first four days of May, 1991. During this period loading was done on volumetric basis. WCL have stated that they are not aware of any complaint of the nature mentioned.

(b) No, Sir. Although weighbridges do sometimes breakdown like any other machinery, their average availability is of a high order.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. For example, in the month of May, 1991, Junnardeo weigh-bridge was out of order for the first four days, but was functioning well for the rest of the month. WCL has taken up the matter of proper maintenance with the concerned company which maintain Junnardeo weighbridge, and have instructed it to further improve its maintenance and availability.

1035. [Transferred to 31st July, 1991]

Lifting of ban on Japanese firms for tenders floated by I.O.C.

1036. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a ban on Japanese companies on

the participation in tenders floated by Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of India have lifted the ban recently; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Orders were issued to Public Sector Undertakings under the then Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals in December 1989, not to give further business to the Consortium of Japanese Companies which functioned under the name of M/s. Sumitomo Corporation. These orders were withdrawn in May, 1991 after agreements between M/s. Sumitomo Corporation and PNGC/GAIL to refer their contractual dispute to arbitration.

Increase in the number of flights between Zurich and Delhi

1037. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some additional flights between Zurich and Delhi have recently been started; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Swissair was operating 7 flights a week through Bombay till 23-6-1991. However, keeping in view the traffic requirements, they have shifted three of their services to Delhi with effect from 24-6-1991.

तापीय विद्युत संयंत्रों को कोयले की आपूर्ति

1038. डा. जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

सरदार जगजीत सिंह झरोड़ा :

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :