

information, the cost of natural gas in those countries is around US \$ 1 per million BTU or even less, whereas in India the delivered cost of gas is around US \$ 2.4 per million BTU for the plants based on gas at landfall point and about US \$ 2.9 for the plants based on gas located on HBJ pipeline. The feedstock cost of the plants based on naphtha and fuel oil/LSHS is still higher, being in the neighbourhood of US \$ 7.7 to 9.2 per million BTU and US \$ 5.5 to 6.3 per million BTU, respectively. Efforts are under way to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for manufacture of urea, which is likely to be cheaper than naphtha. However, the cost of indigenous urea may still be higher, due to high transport cost of LNG. Pricing of liquid petroleum products viz. naphtha, fuel oil, low sulphur heavy stock at import parity price by domestic oil refineries, installation of energy saving measures such as purge gas recovery unit etc. and promoting technological improvements for improving energy efficiency in urea units are some of the measures taken by the units/Government towards reducing the cost of production of urea in the country.

Adverse Impact of transfers in KVS

†*87. **SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the transfer policy of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;
- (b) whether it is being implemented; if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that studies of the children were adversely affected on account of frequent transfers by the administration during the last academic session; and
- (d) whether Government would issue directives to stop unnecessary and before time transfers; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The Transfer Policy of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) is aimed at harmonising the needs of organisation and that of the employees. This is done objectively by giving entitlement points to each employee, seeking transfer to a particular station. Two priority lists for each station for a

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

post/subject are prepared by following the descending order of combined weightage of each applicant calculated in terms of entitlement points awarded. Transfers are effected by following the first priority list against clear vacancies. After the clear vacancies are exhausted the remaining candidates in Priority List-I who are also appearing in Priority List-II having served for more than 5 years at a station and 3 years at a hard station are transferred by displacing the teachers having longest stay of more than 5 years at those stations to which the transfers have been requested for. According to the information given by the KVS, all transfers have been made in accordance with the requests and the provisions of the guidelines.

ICAR Foot-and-Mouth Research Centre in Kashmir

***88. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to set up a Foot-and-Mouth Research Centre in Kashmir by the Indian Council for Agriculture Research; if so, whether ICAR has set up the same; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) There was a proposal to set up a Collaborating Centre in J & K by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). This has been set up.

(b) A Collaborating Centre has been sanctioned for J & K by ICAR during IX Plan with an outlay of Rs.3.80 lakhs and started functioning at Department of Animal Husbandry, Jammu & Kashmir.

Doubling the Track of Konkan Railways

***89. MISS MABEL REBELLO:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many trains are run on the Konkan Railways;

(b) whether the number of trains is few and slow and if so, whether it is because of single track;

(c) whether it is a fact that even the Rajdhani Express running from Delhi to Trivandrum is always late by a couple of hours; and

(d) if so, whether Government have any plan to double this important line in the near future?