

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) 39.9 kms. pipeline was procured by ONGC to supply gas to RSEB at Ramgarh from its gas field at Manhera Tibba. Since finalisation of the contract with RSEB is taking abnormally long, the pipeline has been shifted for use in Gujarat where it was required urgently. The same will be replenished, whenever the scheme is implemented for gas supply to RSEB after signing of the contract.

Sick industrial units in Assam

2102. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of sick industrial units in Assam at present;

(b) what are the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) what is the number of industrial units closed down during the last three years in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Data on sick industrial units assisted by the banks in the country is being collected by Reserve Bank of India. As per the latest information available from Reserve Bank of India there are 4 sick units in Non-SSI* sector and 11,438 sick units in the SSI sector in Assam, as at the end of June, 1988.

(b) A number of causes, both external and internal are responsible for industrial sickness in the country. Among the major causes are faulty project planning, management deficiencies, inefficient financial control, diversion of resources, inadequate attention to R&D, obsolescence of technology and machinery, poor industrial relations, change in market

* Non-SSI sick units include medium scale sick industries also as per the definition of sickness adopted by Reserve Bank of India since 1987 onwards.

demand, cost and scarcity of raw materials and other inputs and infrastructural constraints.

(c) The data collected by the Reserve Bank of India do not indicate the number of units which have been closed down.

Installation of mini-hydel project in Darjeeling

2103. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the possibility for the installation of Mini-Hydel Projects in hilly regions of Darjeeling; and

(b) whether Government have drawn up any plan in this regard; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Mini-Hydel Project costing upto Rs. five crores is a State Government subject. Accordingly the State Government of West Bengal has been requested to furnish the requisite information which will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Proposal for air services between Darjeeling and Bagdogra

2104. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council for operating air services between Darjeeling (Tiger Hill) and Bagdogra and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this proposal, if so, the action taken so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of high cost of operation of air service in this sector, the same is commercially not viable and a decision on subsidy may be necessary.

Phasing out the production of fuel inefficient vehicles

2105. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps if any, are being taken to phase out the production of fuel inefficient cars|buses|trucks in the country; and

(b) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan|policy in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have been encouraging manufacture of fuel efficient vehicles by grant of fiscal incentives, permitting foreign collaborations for upgradation of technology for making vehicles more fuel efficient and prescribing fuel efficiency norms.

Manufacturing of petrol and diesel from coal and lignite

2106. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of shortage of oil in the country, any studies have been made or are contemplated to determine the technical feasibility and economic viability of manufacturing petrol and diesel from coal and lignite, which are available in abundance in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Various studies were made in the past in regard to the feasibility

of production of petrol, diesel etc. from Indian coals but apart from the need for heavy capital investment, the projects were not found economical with reference to the oil prices then prevailing in the international market.

A research project for liquification of coal to oil by direct hydrogenation to maximise yield of middle distillates has been taken up by the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad to be completed during the Eighth Plan period. Neyveli Lignite Corporation also proposes to make a study of hydro-liquification of lignite even though no proven process with lignite is now in operation.

Commissioning of 400 KV lines by N.H.P.C.

2107. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has undertaken the commissioning of some 400 K.V. lines;

(b) if so, how many of these lines have been completed so far; and

(c) what is the number and details of the lines which have been charged so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following three lines have been completed so far by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation:—

(i) 400 KV Single Circuit Singrauli-Kanpur Transmission Line (on behalf of NTPC) — 505 Kms.

(ii) 400 KV Single Circuit Jeypore-Indravati-Rengali Transmission Line— 423 Kms.

(iii) 400 KV Double Circuit Malda-Farakka Transmission Line — 42 Kms.

(c) All the above three lines have been charged.