

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Policy on Education, 1986, envisages that, in the interest of greater co-ordination and consistency in policy, sharing of facilities and developing inter-disciplinary research, a national body covering higher education in general, agricultural, medical, technical, legal and other professional fields will be set up. In pursuance of this the establishment of a mechanism for co-ordination among the various Central agencies involved in the development of higher education in different fields is under discussion. The details of its composition, functions, etc., have not been finalised.

(b) As the proposed mechanism is intended primarily to bring about greater co-ordination among the existing Central agencies no discussions with the State Governments are envisaged.

Cancellation of trains on Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva route

50. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many trains on Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva route have been cancelled due to shortage of water and that these trains have not so far been restored; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof as on date and what are the reasons for their cancellation and when they are likely to commence again?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) 495/496 Bhavnagar-Mahuva, 497/498 Bhavnagar-Talaja and 499/500 Bhavnagar-Mahuva have now been cancelled permanently due to poor patronisation.

Higher issue price of aviation fuel in the country

51. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international airlines do not prefer to refuel their aircraft in India due to higher issue price of aviation fuel;

(b) what are the comparative issue prices of fuel to international airlines in India, Gulf countries and at other international airports; and

(c) whether it is a fact that on account of higher issue price of aviation fuel in India, the country is losing substantial aviation and tourism business; if so what are the details of the corrective measures being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATEL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel fixed for international airways at Indian and some other foreign airports are as under:—

	US Cents/per US Gallon
Bombay	90.82
Madras	90.82
Calcutta	91.35
Delhi	93.25
Dubai	66
Singapore	49.31
New York	58
London	55.35
Frankfurt	69
Geneva	67
Sydney	59