

(d) what efforts have been made by Government to make use of these non-conventional sources of energy in running water-pumps for irrigation and other purposes?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir. The consumption of electricity in the country by domestic and commercial consumers is around 13 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Presently non-conventional sources of energy such as solar energy, bio-gas, wind energy, biomass, etc., are being tapped in a comparatively limited quantity on experimental basis. The use of non-conventional sources of energy for operating irrigation pump-sets is also in an experimental stage.

Introduction of Trams in Delhi

17. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to re-introduce trams in Delhi;

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

(c) what were the reasons for the withdrawal of trams from Delhi some years back; and

(d) what other modes of transport are also being contemplated by Government in view of the rapid increase in number of commuters in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The main reason for withdrawal of trams from Delhi was that these were found to be uneconomical and were also found to be contributing to significant increase in congestion dur-

ing the crowded hours particularly within the walled city.

(d) Apart from the bus transport system, the Ring Railway with Electrical Multiple Unit was introduced in Delhi in 1982. Further additional modes of transport have not so far been feasible mainly due to constraints of resources.

Report of the National Commission on Higher Education

18. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Higher Education, which was headed by Shri Rais Ahmed Vice-Chairman of University Grants Commission, has since submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Building of Oil Tankers at Cochin Shipyard

19. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build oil tankers at Cochin Shipyard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Shipping Corporation of India have placed a letter of intent on Cochin Shipyard Limited for construction of three oil tankers of 86000 DWT each. The discussions for finalisation of the specifications of these tankers are in progress.