

RAILWAY PROJECTS FOR DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES

382. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed in the matter of sanctioning new railway projects for drought relief measures in different States; and

(b) the number of such projects sanctioned for different States, the number of persons employed and the expenditure

incurred so far on these projects, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No guidelines have been laid down for sanc-

tioning new lines as drought relief. Each project is decided on its merits.

(b) Earthwork on the following four projects, has been taken up as drought relief. All these fall in the State of Maharashtra. The number of persons employed and expenditure incurred are as follows:

	Persons employed. (approx.)	Expenditure incurred by the Rly. So far, which excludes wages to the labour, as these are directly disbursed by the State Government.
1. New BG line Apta-Dasgaon,	3600	Rs. 95447
2. Wani-Chanaka new BG line	900	Rs. 16000
3. Manmad-Purli Vajjnath conversion from MG to BG	11000	Rs. 3260
4. Miraj-Latur conversion from MG to BG		

GAS DISTRIBUTION BY O.N.G.C.

383. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission has provided gas to the individuals through independent contract and without consulting the Gujarat Government;

(b) if so, whether the Gujarat Government have complained about the policy of distribution of National Gas through O.N.G.C.

(c) whether O.N.G.C. have stated that gas will be provided from Ahmedabad and Olpad Gas centres through independent contract and without consultation with the State Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(e) the total estimated quantity of Gas to be made available from Ahmedabad and Olpad and what is the O.N.G.C.'s policy of distribution of Gas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) In order to avoid flaring of gas, some short-term contracts for supply of small quantities of natural gas were entered into by the ONGC with individual buyers; the Gujarat Government was informed about these contracts.

(b) to (e) The practice being followed by the ONGC in the distribution of natural gas is that contractual arrangements for supply to bulk consumers on a long-term basis are made in consultation with the State Government and the Central Government. Surplus gas, if any, is disposed of by the Commission directly to its best commercial advantage. To locate suitable consumers of natural gas available from Ahmedabad and Olpad fields, an advertisement was recently put out by the ONGC inviting applications from such parties. In response, proposals are being received and scrutinised by the ONGC and no contracts have yet been signed. The figures of availability of oil/gas from individual