

the current NELP gas produced from the block KG-DWN-98/3 works out to be US \$ 4.2 per Million Metric British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) at crude price greater or equal to US \$ 60 per barrel. The EGoM has approved the price formula for a period of five (5) years from the date of commencement of supply of gas from the above block.

In the meeting held on 24.2.2012, EGoM has desired that advice of Ministry of Law and Justice including views of Attorney General of India be obtained in the matter of gas price revision for consideration of EGoM.

(b) to (d) A draft Note for EGOM has been prepared accordingly and circulated for Inter Ministerial consultation.

Malpractices indulged in by private constructors in highway contracts

*260. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private contractors are indulging into various malpractices and grafts in the highway contracts awarded to them;

(b) whether any such fraudulent practices have come to the notice of Government during the contracts awarded to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures being adopted by Government to check such frauds and grafts in future, along with penal proceedings initiated against the erring contractors?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (d) Complaints about malpractices and grafts by private companies, whenever received are examined and actions are taken including debarring from competing in future contracts against such company, if found guilty. Recently, World Bank's Institutional integrity unit has alleged that some companies executing World Bank funded projects in the State of Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh have committed sanctionable practices.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been asked to verify the kind of consequences occurred on the outcome of the projects in terms of quality or project completion and take appropriate action as per provisions of agreements with the contractors. Accordingly, investigation was initiated by NHAI but in the

meantime Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) intimated that they were also verifying the same complaint and also requisitioned certain documents from NHAI. The matter is now with CBI.

National Highways construction projects are awarded with transparent bidding process under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) as well as International Competitive Bidding (ICB). The procurement and award process follows the procedures laid down in Request for Qualification (RFQ)/Request for Proposal (RFP)/Standard Bidding Document (SBD) published by Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Apart from this, to bring more transparency, e-procurement/e-tendering has also been introduced which is a fully transparent procedure in which the bidders can view the opening of bids on-line. They shall also be able to view the results of tendering process as soon as the same is made public.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSATRRED QUESTIONS

Air India turn around

1861. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the noted civil aviation consultancy, Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA), Air India can make turn around;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to CAPA to make Air India turn around, Government needs to revamp the Air India's board and management to achieve the desired objectives;

(d) whether it is also a fact that for the first time in several years, Air India's disappointing performance is heading in a positive direction which could become a trigger for an overall turn around; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) No such report has been received by the Government.