

Steps taken by the Government for prevention of atrocities against women:

(i) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has been amended in 1984 and 1986 to make the provisions more stringent and effective. Further amendments to the Act are also under consideration.

(ii) The Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have been amended by the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 1983 to deal effectively with cases of cruelty to married women.

(iii) Standing instructions have been issued for investigations of dowry death cases by officers not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police. The post-mortem is to be done by a team of two doctors and disposal of the dead body is not to be allowed without post-mortem.

(iv) The Department of Women and Child Development have also taken measures for removal of flaws in the existing legislation pertaining to women. The national Commission on Women has been set up and assistance is being given to organisations involved in the uplift of women.

(v) A number of schemes are being implemented by the government as well as through women's voluntary organisations to make women economically independent and aware of their rights. Mass media campaigns against the social evil of dowry through the programmes of electronic media are also being organised.

(vi) The Government have prepared training modules for conducting gender

sensitisation course for police officials.

SPECIAL STEPS TAKEN IN DELHI

(i) the Crime against Women Cell was established in Delhi in 1983 to deal with all types of crime against women.

(ii) In order to provide immediate relief to the victims, Crime(W) Cells have also been set up in all the 9 Police Districts of Delhi.

(iii) To safeguard the interest of women, anti-eve-teasing drives are being conducted in different areas of Delhi including in public transport.

(iv) Training in unarmed combat is being imparted to school girls to build up confidence and courage and to equip them for self-Defence in time of need.

9 cases of atrocities on women allegedly committed by policemen in 1992 (1.1.1992 to 31.12.1992) have been registered.

11 policemen have been arrested. 3 cases are still under investigation and 6 cases are pending trial in Courts of Law.

[English]

Oil and Gas Exploration in Mahanadi Basin

* 45 SHRI SUBASH CHANDRANAYAK:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of onshore/offshore blocks offered in the Mahanadi basin in the Fifth Round of bidding for exploration of oil and gas in India, which was floated in January, 1993; and

(b) the time by which the exploration work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Under the Fifth Round of bidding two onshore and three offshore blocks in Mahanadi Basin have been offered for exploration for oil and gas.

(b) The last date for submission of bids is 30. 6.93. Exploration work would depend on receipt of bids and finalisation of contracts for these blocks.

Excavation by O.N.G.C. in Kadmaha

*46. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission's excavation activities in Kadmaha, West Champaran district were stopped at 5371 metres as against the target of 5600 metres;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received requests from the Government of Bihar and various organisations for the resumption of the excavation activities upto the target; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The geological objectives of drilling

the well were achieved, I therefore further drilling was not considered necessary based on data acquired.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There was no presence of hydrocarbons and the scientific information collected by drilling did not justify any further drilling of the well by O.N.G.C.

Uttarnachal State

*47. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Resolution passed by the State Assembly of Uttar Pradesh recommending the creation of a separate Uttaranchal State was received by the Union Government from the State Government;

(b) the progress made so far in the matter;

(c) whether the Union Government are considering to hold any further discussions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) The resolution passed by the Uttar Pradesh legislative Assembly was received in the Ministry of Home Affairs in December, 1991 from the State Government.

(b) to (d). On the 6th December, 1992 the Uttar Pradesh State Assembly was dissolved and the President's Rule was imposed. It is felt that it may not be prudent to take a decision in a vital and sensitive matter like this till a popularly elected representative Government is again formed in the State.