

scope, objectives and general scheme of legislation for the handicapped. The Committee submitted its report in June, 1988.

4. The Committee had made wide ranging recommendations concerning the various aspects of rehabilitation, namely; prevention, early intervention, education, training, employment and the provisions of concessions and facilities for the physically handicapped and mentally retarded.

5. Based on the reports of the Working Group and Baharul Islam Committee, the Government of India introduced the following two Bills in Rajya Sabha in 1991 :

- (i) Board for the Welfare of the Handicapped Bill, 1991
- (ii) National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy Bill, 1991

However, the Bills could not be taken up for consideration due to change in Governments.

6. After re-examination of the proposed legislation in consultation with eminent persons it was decided to replace the Bill No. (i), namely, "Board for the Welfare of Handicapped Bill, 1991" by a more elaborate legislation covering all aspects of security and rehabilitation of the disabled.

7. Accordingly, a draft Bill titled "Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full participation) Bill, 1995", is being considered based on the 1981 Bill, recommendations of Baharul Islam Committee Report, suggestions/views given by the State Government/U.T. Administrations, concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and eminent N.G.O.s.

8. No State Government has objected to such legislation for the Disabled.

9. Efforts are being made to introduce the Bill in the Parliament as soon as possible. Simultaneously steps are being taken to revive the Bill No. (ii), namely "National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy, Bill, 1991", which is already pending in Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

#### Gas Flaring

\*427. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of natural gas being produced everyday from the various oilfields of Maharashtra;
- (b) the quantum of gas being flared up daily in various oilfields in the State;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to utilise such gas being flared up in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the time by which this proposal is likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (e). There are no oil and gas fields in Maharashtra. However, 38.88 MMSCMD of gas was produced in the Western offshore fields in 1994-95 and 2.85 MMSCMD was flared. The gas from Panna and Mukta now being flared is proposed to be taken to Hazira to meet existing commitments. The flaring at other fields is at a technically minimum level.

[English]

#### Human Development

\*428. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Development Council in their meetings held in December, 1991 had identified gaps in performance in some of the most important areas of human development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Development Council had also outlined additional measures for promotion of family welfare, literacy and employment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) and (b). It was affirmed in the National Development Council meeting held in December, 1991 that the development of social sector with focus on Human Development would be the priority area of the Eighth Plan. The specific thrust areas would be employment generation, population control, universalisation of elementary education, provision of safe drinking water and primary health facilities. Therefore, it was felt that the Planning Commission and the National Development Council would have to continuously appraise and evaluate the situation in several such areas of importance. Accordingly, under the social sectors three areas namely, (i) Population, (ii) Employment and (iii) Literacy were identified and the NDC decided to set up its sub-committees to go into the issues in these areas. The NDC sub-Committees were set up and the reports of the Committees were considered and endorsed by the NDC in its meeting held on 18th Sept. 1993.

(c) and (d). The measures suggested in the reports of the NDC committees on Employment, Population and Literacy are as follows :