

**Availability and import of Naptha**

2041 SHRI P RAJAGOPAL NAIDU Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether Naptha is produced in the country

(b) if so the quantity produced during 1976-77

(c) whether Government are importing Naptha from other countries and

(d) if so the quantities imported during 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHR H N BAHUGUNA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) During 1976-77 a quantity of about 2.05 million tonnes of Naptha was produced in the country

(c) Yes

(d) About 1.84 lakh tonnes of Naptha was imported during the year 1976-77

**Removal of Letter of B L D from Election Commission's File**

2042 SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether a letter from BLD to the Election Commission regarding election symbol had been removed from the Commission's file at the instance of the Union Home Minister

(b) what were the contents of the letter and to whom it was written, and

(c) reasons for its removal from the file?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI

SHANII BHUSHAN) (a) to (c) Presumably the Honble Member has in mind a communication which was addressed by Shri Charan Singh Chairman Bharatiya Lok Dal in connection with the merger of that party in the newly formed Janata party

2 Shri Charan Singh Chairman Bharatiya Lok Dal addressed a letter dated 30th May 1977 to the Chief Election Commissioner of India intimating that a special conference of the Bharatiya Lok Dal held in Delhi on 30th April 1977 presided over by him had adopted a resolution of complete merger of its identity with the Janata party and that the symbol reserved for Bharatiya Lok Dal should become the official symbol of the Janata party. A copy of the resolution was also enclosed with that letter. This letter was received by the Chief Election Commissioner on 6th May 1977. On 8th May 1977 Shri Charan Singh desired the return of his letter dated 5th May 1977 addressed in his capacity as Chairman of the Bharatiya Lok Dal. After taking a copy for the records of the Commission the letter was returned to Shri Charan Singh on 9th May 1977 with a covering letter in which he was informed that the Chief Election Commissioner would await a communication from him before he proceeded further in the matter relating to the merger of the party. On 11th May 1977 the letter of 5th May 1977 was returned to the Deputy Election Commissioner in person by Shri Rabi Rai General Secretary Janata party. As similar letters intimating the merger had already been received from the Indian National Congress (Organisation) the Bharatiya Jan Sangh and the Socialist Party the Commission recorded a decision on 11th May 1977 itself under paragraph 16 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1961 that the Janata party should be recognised and notified as a National party and that the symbol 'Haldhar within wheel' (Chakra Haldhar) should

be allotted as its exclusive symbol for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

3 It would be evident from the above that it is not correct to say that any letter/file had been removed from the office of the Election Commission of India New Delhi, implying that something had been done unauthorisedly or in an irregular manner

#### Arrangements for Elections to State Assemblies

2043 SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether this time the Election Commission had made better and tighter arrangements for elections to State Assemblies

(b) in what way they were better and tighter than the last Lok Sabha elections, and

(c) whether any arrangements were made to save the people from the heat?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANU BHUSHAN) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The better and tighter arrangements were in the sphere of maintenance of law and order with a view to effectively preventing the commission of electoral offences and ensuring smooth poll. The State Governments concerned made adequate security arrangements for the safe conduct of poll where elections to Legislative Assemblies were held. The effectiveness of the arrangements can be seen from the fact that there were 75 cases of repoll/adjourned poll at the Lok Sabha elections held in March, 1977 whereas the number of such cases during the assembly elections was only 9

(c) Sheds wherever possible, were provided in front of the polling stations so that the voters may stand in queue

in these facilities for drinking water were also made to the extent possible

#### Off-Shore Exploration Programme by O. I. L. in Mahanadi Delta

2044 SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have given clearance to the joint sector Oil India Limited to start off-shore exploration in the Mahanadi Delta in July,

(b) whether Government have dropped the idea of take over of the foreign equity in the Oil India Limited,

(c) if so, the reasons therefor,

(d) whether the Oil India Limited has worked out a Rs 15 crore off-shore exploration programme for the Mahanadi area, and

(e) if so, the main features of the proposed programme?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The negotiations are in progress

(d) and (e) The scheme for offshore exploration of Mahanadi area is under preparation by Oil India Ltd

#### Collision between Trivandrum Mail and Steam Engines at Tiruvalem

2045. SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether two persons were killed and six injured when the Madras-bound Trivandrum Mail Collided with coupled steam engines while it was passing Tiruvalem station 118 K.M from Madras.

(b) if so, the details of the accident;