

the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the minerals available in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether any survey has ever been conducted there ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to establish industry based on minerals available there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) (a). The Minerals available in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh are clay, manganese, sillimanite, graphite, quartz and building materials.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Steel Authority of India Limited has taken mining leases for manganese, while quartz is being exploited by a private company. Of the other minerals, only clay and building materials are at present of economic significance.

**Abolition of Freight Equalisation Scheme in Respect of Steel.**

5979. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to abolish the freight equalisation scheme in respect of steel ;

(b) if so, whether States like Kerala will have to pay much higher price for this commodity now ;

(c) whether Kerala has represented against the abolition of this scheme ; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to consider any other scheme for compensating the States which will be hit hard by the abolition of the freight equalisation scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The decision to phase out the Freight Equalisation Scheme in respect of iron and steel has been taken on the basis of the National Transport Policy Committee recommendation which in its report to Government had observed that "freight equalisation has had little effect on generating employment activity in backward regions. Freight equalisation in industrial commodities does not meet the desirable objective of dispersal of economic activity but can lead to non-optimal location of industries. We, therefore, recommend that it should be phased out."

The modalities and time phasing of the withdrawal of the freight equalisation scheme in respect of iron and steel are being worked out in consultation with the Ministries/Departments concerned. While working out the modalities abolition, care is being taken to ensure that the industries/consumers located away from the integrated steel plants are required to bear only the minimum extra cost as and when this scheme is phased out.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

SC/ST Officers in N.T.C.

5980. SHRI GANGA RAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts in the pay scales of Rs. 1500 and above in the National Textiles Corporation (Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan) and its mills ;

(b) the number and percentage of officers working in the above grades belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the said organisation ;

(c) whether efforts have been made to appoint the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled

Tribes officers in the above grades directly or by promotion of these working in the Edw and Mills, N.T.C. (DPR) Ltd. Beawan and other units ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :** (a) There are 49 posts in the pay scales of Rs. 1,500 and above in the National Textile Corporation (Delhi, Punjab, and Rajasthan) and its mills.

(b) At present, there is no officer working in the above grades belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the said organisation.

(c) and (d). Efforts are made to appoint the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe officers in the above grades directly. At present, the mills under National Textile Corporation (Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan) have no suitable Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidate in the zone of consideration for promotion to the above grades.

#### Import of Rose Oil

5981 : **SHRI G. G. SWELL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether we have been importing rose oil at exorbitant prices ;

(b) the reasons for such imports ; and

(c) the reason why we cannot be self-sufficient in rose oil production having regard to the congeniality of the climate for rose cultivation ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :** (a) Rose oil is being imported in small quantities at reasonable prices.

(b) Indigenous production is not sufficient to meet the demand.

(c) Due to low prices and competition from synthetic oil, the extraction of rose oil is not attractive.

#### Appointment of Casual Employees Engaged in JCI

5982. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of casual employees engaged in the Jute Corporation of India during 1981-83;

(b) whether there are any instructions of the West Bengal Government that all appointments should be made through employment exchanges;

(c) whether the Jute Corporation of India is violating the instruction of West Bengal Government and all appointments are being made by-passing the employment exchanges; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to give instruction to the Jute Corporation of India to adhere to the instructions issued by the West Bengal Government ?

**THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :** (a) The total number of casual employees on roll of Jute Corporation of India in 1981, 1982 and 1983 were 742, 648 and 668 respectively.

(b) to (d). The Jute Corporation of India have reported that they are not aware of any such instructions issued by the West Bengal Government. However, in compliance with the provisions of the Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, normally all regular appointments in the posts carrying pay scales, the maximum of which does not exceed Rs. 800 are being made from amongst the candidates