

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There is no date to suggest that there is an alarming increase in the prevalence of diabetes in the country.

(b) As part of health education activities, the Central Health Education Bureau and other Institutes of this Ministry have been disseminating information on various health programmes including diabetes.

Lead Toxicity

488. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lead toxicity affects brain;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether lead levels among children of Delhi are found to be three to four times higher as compared to the children of Europe; and

(d) if so, the details of measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the abnormal increase of lead toxicity?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Lead Toxicity can adversely affect the brain and is more commonly seen in children.

(c) ICMR has reported that no controlled studies have been carried out which would enable such comparison to be drawn.

(d) Action will be taken to check the harmful effects of lead toxicity through appropriate measures.

Pension to Freedom Fighters Widows

489. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME ARRARS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pension cases of widows of freedom fighters from West Bengal have been sanctioned during 1992;

(b) the number of such cases which are still pending; and

(c) the steps taken for expeditious disposal and when these cases are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c). During the year 1992, pension was sanctioned/transferred in favour of 89 widows of freedom fighters from the State of West Bengal. From May, 1992, a simplified procedure regarding transfer of pension to widows has been introduced whereby the disbursing officers at the local level have been authorised to transfer the pension. Applications for transfer of pension in favour of widows of such of the freedom fighters who were already in receipt of pension from the central revenues are, therefore, no longer required to be made to the Central Government.

As at present, 31 cases relating to sanction of family pension to widows of such of the freedom fighters in whose favour pension had been sanctioned but who died before issue of Pension Payment Order are pending consideration with the Government. These are being processed for expeditious disposal on a priority basis.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in Gujarat

490. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes sanctioned during Eighth Plan period for exploring the possibility of oil and natural gas in the coastal area of Gujarat State; and

(b) the details of the present possibility to explore the oil and natural gas in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) In addition to the seismic surveys, ONGC propose to drill 424 exploratory wells in the State of Gujarat during the VIII Plan period.

(b) The possibility of exploring oil and natural gas in the State exists mainly within the areas of Bechraji, Khambel, Jotana, Nandasan, Langhnaj, Mansa, Limborda, Gamij, Nandej, Palej, Gandhar, Pakhajan and Nada falling in the Cambay Basin.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Gas to Gas Based Power Projects in Bihar

491. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have urged the Union Government to supply gas for the gas based power projects in the State;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (b). Requests have been

received from time to time to extend the HBJ pipeline to Bihar.

(c) In view of non-availability of surplus gas it has not been possible to consider any extension of the HBJ pipeline to on any allocations in Bihar.

Oil Exploration Survey in Jabera

492. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any oil exploration survey has been made at Jabera in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether drilling operation has been started at this site; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d). On the basis of surveys, an exploratory well - Jabera-I was drilled upto a depth of 3610 m and it was abandoned, since on testing, no oil or gas in commercial quantities was obtained.

[*English*]

Exploration of Minerals in Rajasthan

493. SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether assistance from any international agencies had sought for the development and exploration of minerals in Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?