

has been requested to identify a suitable site and provide geological data to Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited.

Commission under Article 339

3280. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 166 on August 4, 1994 and state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on the setting up of a Commission under Article 339 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has recently decided to set up Commission under Article 339 (1) of the Constitution. The Commission will have seven members including the Chairman and Member-Secretary. Chairman of the Commission will be from amongst Scheduled Tribes and at least half of the members of the Commission would be eminent persons from amongst the STs.

(c) Does not arise.

Oil Reserves

3281. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of proven recoverable reserves of crude oil;

(b) the approximate life of these reserves; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to initiate to augment the availability of proven oil reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) The balance of recoverable reserves of crude oil of ONGC as on 1.4.95 and OIL as on 1.1.95 are 699.66 MMT and 60.53 MMT respectively.

(b) the life of reserves is controlled by the pattern and level of reserves accretion as well as reserve withdrawal rates. The approximate life of above reserves of ONGC and OIL is 24 years and 20 years respectively.

(c) Govt. have launched the Accelerated Programme of Exploration (APEX) to intensify exploratory efforts during the period 1994-97 and thus augment the availability of reserves. It comprises additional inputs for seismic data acquisition and exploratory drilling in sedimentary basins of India.

In addition, blocks have been offered from time to time to private Indian and foreign companies for exploration. Under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme, announced in March, 1995, 28 blocks have been offered

for development by private companies under joint venture arrangements with ONGC/OIL. The last date for receipt of bids is 15.9.1995.

[Translation]

Official Language Act

3282. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the provisions made in the Official Language Act against the discrimination in Government departments on the basis of language;

(b) whether magazines published in English language alongwith Hindi magazines Vigyan Pragati and Bhagirath by Government bodies have more facilities and staff as compared to Hindi magazines which have only minimum facility; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to do away with the violation of Official Language Act and to provide proper facilities to Hindi magazines; and

(d) whether the Government propose to initiate a inquiry into the violation of Official Language Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) The provisions of Official Language Act are mainly related to the use of Language for the official purposes of the Union. Therefore, there is no provision against the discrimination on the basis of Language.

(b) The staff and other facilities available to the so called Hindi magazines, "Vigyan Pragati" and "Bhagirath" are similar or more as compared to the magazines published in English.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

National Council for Handicapped

3283. Dr. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had constituted the National Council for Handicapped;

(b) if so, the composition, functions and main objectives of the Council; and

(c) the welfare measures introduced by the Council for the benefit of handicapped so far in various States particularly in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Council for Handicapped Welfare is headed by the Welfare Minister and consists of 67 members including representatives from the various Ministers/State Governments, National Institutes, Voluntary Organisations and experts in the field of handicapped welfare. Its main objectives are as follows :

- (i) To ensure a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to research, training and services for the disabled population;
- (ii) To evolve a National Plan of Action;
- (iii) To evolve policy guidelines for the welfare and rehabilitation of the disabled;
- (iv) Periodically review legislation administrative and other measures for the welfare of the disabled; and
- (v) To ensure peoples' participation in the rehabilitation of the disabled;

(c) the National Council does not undertake welfare measures programmes. It is only an advisory body.

[Translation]

Flood Control

3284. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of flood control projects of Uttar Pradesh pending with the Union Government for approval alongwith their estimated projected cost;
- (b) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved; and
- (c) the details of Central assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh for flood control during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted 14 Nos. of flood control schemes costing about Rs. 61 crore to Union Government during the VIII Plan, upto March, 1995. All these schemes were examined and comments offered to the State Government. The response from the State Government is still awaited.

- (b) The time of clearance of the schemes will depend on the compliance of the comments by the State Government.
- (c) During the last three years, no financial assistance was provided for flood control works from Central Sector to Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Registration of Theft Cases

3285. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to USQ. No. 5994 given on May 17, 1995 and state :

- (a) whether the Government assured for registration cases of theft etc. under Rule 24.4 of Punjab Police Rules;
- (b) if so, the number of cases which have been registered and enquired into during 1995 so far;

(c) the number of letters received from Members of Parliament in this regard during 1995; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (d) Government gave an assurance to Part (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5994 answered on 17th May, 1995. Which seeks information about number of letters received during April '95 from M.Ps. by PM on such type of cases and action taken thereon. The subject matter about registration of cases of theft etc. under relevant rules of State Police Force is the concern of respective State Governments as per List-II of the 7th Schedule to the constitution of India. Similarly, letters received from Members of Parliament in this regard are sent to respective State Government to take appropriate action in the matter.

Coal Pilferage

3286. SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large quantity of coal is stolen by contractors in connivance with the mines authorities from the various collieries of Chandrapur area falling under Western Coalfields Limited;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases detected during the last two years and the current year so far; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Tendency of Suicide

3287. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the growing tendency of suicide;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind such suicides;
- (c) whether the Government have any action plan to check the above causes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) A Statement incorporating the number of suicides committed in the country during 1993 and 1994, State/UT-wise along with the reasons for suicides, is enclosed.

(c) and (d) As the causes of suicide are many, complex and mostly personal/family related, the role of the Government by way of an Action Plan or otherwise appears to be very limited.