

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Financial Commissions in States

2238. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have appointed Financial Commissions for the devolution of finances to local bodies as envisaged in the Constitution;

(b) if so, the names of States that have constituted such Commissions;

(c) whether the Central assistance to the local bodies under different schemes and projects is given directly to the local bodies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the States where the provisions of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 are applicable have constituted State Finance Commissions except Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

(c) and (d). The States have been requested to transfer the schemes for economic development and social justice to Panchayats including those relating to 29 subjects mentioned in the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution. Presently, the Central assistance under J.R.Y. is sent to D.R.D.A.s/Zilla Parishads from where these funds go to the Village Panchayat.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

2339. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for enhancing the subsidy for fertilizer in proportion to its cost of production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Government have received a joint memorandum by Agriculture Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Pondichery and Tamil Nadu regarding fertilizers pricing policies. The memorandum inter-alia seeks restoration of subsidy for complex fertilizers to levels obtaining during 1991-92. The suggestions made in the memorandum have been noted.

GSI survey in Gujarat and other States

2240. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for

exploration of minerals by the Geological Survey of India in Gujarat and other states/Union Territories.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the types of minerals found for commercial exploration in the States/Union Territories; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The information about minerals located so far (upto 1993) has been published in the Indian Minerals year Book, 1993 by Indian Bureau of Mines.

(c) Coal, Lignite, Bauxite, Chormite, Copper-ore, Iron-ore, Lead, Manganese, Zinc, Phosphorite, Barytes, Calcite, Diamond, Dolomite, Flourite Gypsum, Limestone, Manesite, Mica Pyrite, Silica Sand, Similmanite, Wollastonite.

(d) Governemtn has set up Public sector Undertakings for exploitation of Coper, Lead-zinc, Aluminium, Coal and Iron-ore. Under the New National Mineral Policy announced in March, 1993, the mineral exploration and exploitation has been dereserved and thrown open to private sector.

People of Indian origin in sub-saharan Africa

2241. SHRI SYAD SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of people of Indian origin in Sub-Saharan Africa, country-wise.

(b) whether it is a fact that most of them are citizens of the countries in which they reside;

(c) if so, whether as an ethnic minority they are subject to any racial, religious or linguistic discrimination by statute or in practice;

(d) whether there have been any incidence of mob violence against them of late; and

(e) if so, the brief particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) According to available information there are about 1.9 million people of Indian origin in sub-Saharan Africa. The country-wise break-up is attached as statement.

(b) A majority of them are nationals of the countries of their domicile or of third countries.

(c) Government is not aware of any deliberate discrimination, either by statute or in practice, by the State against the population of Indian origin in any of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

(d) and (e). Residents of Indian origin in the southern Zambian town of Livingstone wre victims, in terms of looting and damage to property, by mob violence in the last week of October following reports of alleged