

minerals with special emphasis on conservation and protection of environment and ecology. Twelve minerals such as bauxite, barytes, dolomite, kyanite, limestone except when it is used in kilns for the manufacture of lime as building material, magnesite and sillimanite, which had since assumed national importance, were added to the First Schedule.

While the State Government continues to be vested with the power to grant minerals concessions in respect of all Scheduled minerals, the approval of the Central Government has to be obtained before grant of mineral concessions in such cases. This has been done to regulate the development of these important minerals from an all-India point of view.

(c) and (d). The power to grant mineral concessions in respect of minerals already vests with the State Governments.

[*Translation*]

Violation of FERA by Birla Group of Companies

339. SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was violation of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act by Birla Group of Companies during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action was taken by Government against these companies for these violations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (e). During the last 3 years namely 1987, 1988 and 1989, in one case relating to M/s Keshoram Rayons and M/s.Keshoram Industries & Cotton Mills Ltd., Calcutta, a show cause notice for contravention of the provisions of FERA,m 1973 was issued on 1.9.1989.

Pension Scheme for employees of Insurance Corporations

340. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased as to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a pension scheme for the employees of various Insurance Corporations;

(b) if so, when this proposal will be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Liberal retirement benefits already exist in the form of gratuity and contribution to the provident fund at the rate of 10% each by the employee and the employer. There is therefore no proposal to introduce a third retirement benefit.

Himalayan Tourism Development Authority

341. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Himalayan Tourism Development Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and