

examinations. Therefore, subjects in which the number of competing candidates is relatively small should be avoided unless there are strong reasons to the contrary. It is apparent that there can be no clear cut criteria for determining optional subjects for the Civil Services Examination. We have tried to include for the Main Examination all of the more "common" subjects, excluding those which are specifically professional or technical. We have also kept in view the general needs of the Services.

It is in the nature of things that a list of this nature has to be a compromise between several conflicting claims and considerations....."

It would appear that the Kothari Committee did not consider "Chemical Engineering" as one of the more "common" subjects and did not, therefore, include it in the list of optional subjects. In 1978 the Government had accepted the recommendations of the Kothari Committee regarding the list of optional subjects. There was no subsequent review regarding the subject of "Chemical Engineering."

1. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to include "Chemical Engineering" in the list of optional subjects for the Civil Services Examination.

2. Engineering Services Examination is conducted by the Union Public Service Commission for recruitment to Group 'A' and Group 'B' Engineering posts in various Ministries/Departments of the Government in four disciplines only viz., Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering. Accordingly four discipline-oriented schemes of the Examination have been devised and there are no optional subjects. Since Chemical Engineering is a separate discipline by itself, it cannot be included in the present scheme of Engineering Services Examination.

### Excavation for Location of Uranium in Himachal Pradesh

2430. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy is carrying on excavations in Hamirpur and some other districts of Himachal Pradesh for the location of uranium;

(b) if so, the names of the exact places where the excavations are being carried out alongwith the precise dates w.e.f. which they have been started; and

(c) the outcome of the investigations so far and the likely period for which they are planned to be carried out ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

Started on

(b) (i) Astotha,	16-8-1977	Operations
Hamirpur		closed on
Districts.		24-9-1984
(ii) Khya,	25-12-1984	Work in
Hamirpua		progress
Districts.		

(c) Mining at Astotha has provided valuable information on subsurface behaviour of uranium mineralisation in the Siwalik rocks. Work at Khya has just started and is likely to continue for 3 to 4 years more.

### Depletion of Forest Area

2431. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been