

(ख) से (घ). 56 ठेके अनुसूचित जातियों और 12 ठेके अनुसूचित जनजातियों के व्यक्तियों को दिये गये हैं। अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के व्यक्तियों को दिये गये ठेकों के प्रतिशत और भाग (ग) तथा (घ) के सम्बन्ध में सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ?

Take over of Assam Oil Company

24. SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL:
SHRIMATI PARVATHI
KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the negotiations for the takeover of the Assam Oil Company and the 50 per cent equity of the Burmah Oil Company are at present; and

(b) whether the question of compensation and the mode of payment has since been examined and if so, the nature of settlement made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):

(a) and (b). Negotiation for the take over of Assam Oil Company including the amount of compensation and the mode of payment are continuing.

Strike in Southern Railways

25. SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for the strike of Railway employees in Southern Railways which recently paralysed all Railway traffic south of Madurai; and

(b) the present position of the strike and the steps taken by Government to redress the grievances of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) As a protest against non-payment of the impounded Additional Dearness Allowance deposits and Flood Advance to which they were not normally eligible.

(b) Normalcy had been restored on varying dates between 17th January and 24th January, 1978. It was explained to the employees that premature repayment of deposits was permissible only in respect of those affected by the cyclone/flood in specific areas recognised by the State Government.

Lowering of voting age by M.P. Government

26. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Government has reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years for Panchayat Elections; and

(b) if so, whether some other States have also expressed similar views in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the newspaper reports, the Government of Bihar and Himachal Pradesh have also decided to reduce the voting age in panchayat elections from 21 years to 18 years. No details are, however, available.