

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news published in Fort-night (April 10—April 25, 1979) from New Delhi stating that for the manufacture of rocket propellant at the plant in Itarsi, Madhya Pradesh, the Ministry is buying the outmoded batch process technology from a French firm for Rs. 6 crores in foreign exchange;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same batch process technology was sold to the French firm by an American firm around 1940;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more advanced process is available now for use in the Itarsi plant;

(d) whether the advanced process would have cost the same price as the obsolete technology from a French firm; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information available with Government of India, the batch graining process technology was purchased by a French firm from an American firm in early 1950.

(c) A continuous graining process technology is also available, but both the batch graining process and continuous graining process technologies were considered technically acceptable.

(d) No, Sir. Based on the offers received on 29-1-1979—the last date fixed for opening of the tenders for the plant in question the continuous graining process technology would have cost more than the batch graining process technology, on the basis of total cost based on 10 years operation. For the reasons stated against (c) above, the batch graining process for Ball Powder Plant cannot be regarded as obsolete.

(e) In view of (d) above, this does not arise.

Seventy First Report of Law Commission

10090. SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD VERMA:
SHRI RAMKANWAR BERWA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 71st Report of the Law Commission regarding Hindu Marriage Act which was laid on the Table of the House on 7th May, 1978 has been sent to the States for their opinion;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the States; and

(c) what action is being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir, The 71st Report of the Law Commission was submitted to Government and the same was laid on the Table of the Houses of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 12-5-78/11-5-78 respectively.

(b) The views and comments of the State Governments and Union Territories received so far are in general agreement with the Report.

(c) The Report is being processed further by the Government.

Convention of Scientific Workers of Defence at Agra

10091. SHRI RAM PRAKASH TRIPATHI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a convention of scientific workers of Defence held in Agra in December, 1978;

(b) whether the copy of the report of the convention was received by the Ministry; and

(c) if so, what action has so far been taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Firstly the misapprehensions in their mind about their career prospects on account of introduction of new Defence Research and Development Service (DRDS) rules have been clarified and Scientific Adviser has personally granted interview to them. Secondly, action has been initiated to provide some more opening to the junior scientists in the DRDS. Thirdly, action initiated even earlier than the receipt of representation, is being progressed to rationalise and improve the Non-gazetted Cadre both for Scientists and Technicians. All R&D Establishments and Associations/Unions as well as JCM Third Level members are being consulted for their views.

Supply of Gas Cylinder, to Jullundur

10092. **CHOWDHURY BALBIR SINGH:**
SHRI IQBAL SINGH DHILION:

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

(a) whether it is true that people of Jullundur are suffering a lot on account of non supply of gas to the consumers;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the gas cylinder is not supplied even after three months' waiting; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Due to limited availability of product from Gujarat Refinery, many markets in Northern India including Jullundur are having a backlog of refill supply.

(b) The Jullundur market which was having a backlog of 25 to 26 days during January/February, 1979 is, according to the report given by Oil Companies, currently running a backlog of around 15 days.

(c) With the ameliorative steps taken, the refill supply position has improved and it is expected that it will attain normalcy shortly.

Premature refund of fixed deposits by East India Hotels

10093. **SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:** Will the Minister of **LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have come to know that the East India Hotels Ltd. are arbitrarily refunding deposits taken from the public before the expiry of the contractual periods; if so, facts;

(b) if so, in how many cases this Company has adopted this practice and whether any complaints have also been received during the last two years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that after refunding the old deposits prematurely, the Company is also accepting fixed deposits at lower rates of interest; and

(d) if so, the details and what action has been taken by the Government for such type of violation of the Company Deposit Rules by this Company and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) to (c) On an enquiry from Registrar of Companies, West Bengal, Calcutta the East India Hotels Ltd. has revealed that it has made premature refunds of deposits amounting to about Rs. 951 lakhs in about 30,000 cases during the year ending 31st March, 1979 to bring down the deposits within the limits prescribed in Companies (Acceptance of