

(c) if not, will Government conduct a thorough study; and

(d) present strength of artists at the Headquarters and regional units and their activities?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir. The services of the Staff Artists are being utilised to the maximum extent possible. However the utilisation of some troupes has been adversely affected to some extent as some vacancies could not be filled up.

(b) Efforts are being made to provide the full complement of artists with a view to utilising the troupes more effectively.

(c) The Regional Centre Scheme of the Song & Drama Division has come into operation from 1st January, 1979 and Government proposes to watch the operation of the scheme before conducting any study.

(d) The present strength of artists at the headquarters and the regional units is 199 and 435 respectively. Their activities cover a wide spectrum. Border Publicity Troupes are utilised for promoting emotional integration among people residing near the international borders; the Armed Forces Entertainment Troupes provide entertainment to the Armed Forces in the forward areas and the Departmental Drama Troupes conduct publicity-oriented programmes in regional languages in different parts of the country.

Commissioning of the first phase of Loktak Hydro Electric Project

321 **SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to quicken the completion of the Loktak Hydro Electric Project after the explosion in the tunnel in January, 1975;

(b) is it a fact that the progress made so far after the explosion is quite inadequate keeping in view the

increasing labour force and various other office staff;

(c) if so, the additional labour and administrative staff engaged after the explosion; and

(d) the likely date of commissioning of the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). With a view to expediting the progress of work which was retarded following the explosion in the tunnel in December 1975, the project authorities have inducted the New Austrian Tunnelling Method through which the rate of progress per day is higher. In addition, new method of tunnel roof supporting, remote gas monitoring, deployment of personnel trained in the use of sophisticated equipment, are being used, with a view to expediting the progress.

(c) No staff more than the minimum required for executing the work has been engaged.

(d) All the three units of the project are expected to be commissioned in March 1982.

मिट्टी का तेल सफाई करने के लिये ब्लाक स्तर पर एजेंटों की नियुक्ति

322. श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव : क्या पेट्रोसियम तथा रसायन और उर्बरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में मिट्टी के तेल की नियमित सफाई करने के लिये सरकार का विचार ब्लाक स्तर पर एजेंट नियुक्त करने का है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि भागलपुर के जिला मजिस्ट्रेट ने यह मिफारिश की है कि बीहपुर ब्लाक में मिट्टी के तेल की सफाई के लिए नये एजेंट की नियुक्ति की जाये ; और

(ग) यदि हा, तो क्या सरकार का विचार नये तरीकों द्वारा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में मिट्टी के तेल की सफाई के लिए विपणन डीवीजन को निदेश जारी करने का है ?

पेट्रोसियम, रसायन और उर्बरक मंत्री (श्री हेमचंद्र मन्धन बहुगुणा) : (क) इन समय, मिट्टी के तेल के एबेन्ड ब्लाक मुख्यालय सहित क्रिया