

(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 सप्लाई करने के लिये ब्लाक स्तर पर एजेंटों की नियुक्ति

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

(क) क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में मिट्टी के तेल की नियमित सप्लाई 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 सप्लाई 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 सप्लाई के लिए विपणन डीवीजन को निदेश जारी करने का है ?

पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री हेमचंद्र मन्धन बहुगुणा) : (क) इस समय, मिट्टी के तेल के एबैन्ड ब्लाक मुख्यालय सहित क्रिया

क्षेत्र विशेष की समता एवं वाणिज्यिक व्यवहार्यता के आधार पर नियुक्त किए जाने हैं।

(ख) भागलपुर जिलाधीन की ऐसी कोई सफ़ाई गंरे मंत्रालय में नहीं प्राप्त हुई है।

(ग) मिट्टी के तेल की फुटकर बिजली के लिये वर्तमान प्रवन्धा के अतिरिक्त, तेल कम्पनियों ने देश के चुने हुए दूर दराज एवं पहाड़ी क्षेत्र में कम्पनी द्वारा संचालित डिपो की स्थापना के लिए नई योजनाएं प्रारम्भ की हैं जिससे इस क्षेत्र में लोगों तक उत्पाद और सुविधाजनक रूप में पहुँच सके।

Restriction on production capacity of ferro manganese

323. DR BAPU KALDATE Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have restricted the production of the Ferro-Manganese;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof,

(c) whether there has been a heavy demand from Japan and Czechoslovakia for ferro-manganese, and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to increase the present production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b). As against a projected domestic demand of 2.25 lakh tonnes of ferro-manganese for the year 1983-84, a capacity of approximately 3.57 lakh tonnes has already been sanctioned. In view of this, no further capacity is proposed to be licensed. This has been done to (i) conserve the limited reserves of manganese ores in the country, (ii) encourage the utilisation of low grade ores and fines, and (iii) discourage the export of cheap power from India, as production of ferro-manganese is power intensive.

(c) The export of ferro-manganese from India to Japan during the last two years, as against total exports from the country, is indicated below:

(In tonnes)

| | Export to Japan | Total exports from India |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1977-78 | 13,355 | 29,000 |
| 1978-79 | 28,820 | 83,041 |

As regards Czechoslovakia, neither any quantity of ferro-manganese nor any quantity of ferro-manganese exported in the recent past, to that country from India

(d) For reasons mentioned above, Government do not propose augmenting the existing licensed capacity for ferro-manganese.

Public Deposits in Companies

324 DR BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of public limited companies have advertised showing good results and payment of high dividends and collected huge amounts of fixed deposits from public;

(b) is it also a fact that these companies have not paid a single farthing continuously for two years to the depositors showing heavy losses;

(c) whether the Government have proposal to investigate into the affairs of these companies;

(d) whether Government had any authority under the Companies Act to stop the collection of deposits by the said companies and for full return of deposits of the depositors,

(e) if not, what other safeguards are available for the public to secure their deposits

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) and (b). In terms of