

(b). During the course of geological survey, the Government of Rajasthan has located lignite in boreholes at a depth of about 85 metres near Village Kapurdi, Barmer district. Laboratories scale tests are yet to be completed about the grade and quality of the mineral. Exploitation will depend upon the results of these tests and further techno-economic studies regarding its viability.

**Proposal for conversion of Group-B I.T.O.s to Group-A**

669. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering a proposal to convert hundreds of posts of ITOs Group-B to ITOs Group-A in the Income-tax Department;

(b) whether this conversion of ITOs Group-B posts into ITOs Group-A posts will finish the promotional prospects completely of Income-tax Inspectors and other Ministerial cadres of the Income-tax Department;

(c) whether the views of the employees representing the Non-Gazetted Staff in this regard has been obtained and their reaction to the conversion of posts into Group-A ITOs; and

(d) whether Government are going to abandon the proposal for conversion of posts into ITOs Group-A in view of above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes Sir. It is proposed to convert 400 posts of Income-tax Officers (Group 'B') to Income-tax Officers (Group 'A').

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d). The posts of Income-tax Officers may be held by Income-

tax Officers (Group 'A') or Income-tax Officers (Group 'B'). On the basis of a job classification it is proposed to classify these posts into Senior and Junior charges to be held respectively by Group 'A' and Group 'B' Income-tax Officers. While views of Association representing Group 'A' and Group 'B' Income-tax Officers who were directly concerned in the matter were invited and duly taken into consideration, it was not considered necessary to invite views of Non-gazetted officers in the matter.

**Investigation of Gold deposits in Collaboration with Soviet Scientists**

670. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India had a proposal to embark on a detailed investigation of gold deposits in Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat in Collaboration with Soviet Scientists;

(b) if so, what are the details;

(c) whether any investigation has been made so far; and

(d) if so, the details and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

**Smuggling of Video Cassette Tapes**

671. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints of large scale smuggling of video cassette tapes of banned Indian and foreign movies and their screening by illegal music joints, especially in metropolitan cities; and