

(c) No Sir. The Vindhyachal STPS (Stage-I) is being set up in pursuance of the provisions of the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between India and USSR signed in December, 1980. As regards Rihand STPS (Stage-I), in pursuance of an offer made by U.K. on a bilateral basis, NTPC held discussions and concluded a contract with a British Consortium of manufacturers for the setting up of the project.

**Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes
Regional P.F. Commissioners**

3558. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Regional Commissioners are working in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation; if so, how many Commissioners belong to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the Scheduled Tribe/Scheduled Castes Regional Commissioners is working independently in the Regional Offices throughout India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Junior Regional Commissioners pertaining to general category are working independently in the Regional Office throughout India;

(d) how many such Junior Regional Commissioners are working independently in various States of India;

(e) the reasons of this distinction against the SC/ST Regional Commissioners in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation; and

(f) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): According to the Employees' Provident Fund authorities the facts are as follows:

(a) Yes, Sir. Four officers belonging to the Scheduled Caste community and one belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community are working as Regional Provident Fund Commissioners/Deputy Regional Provident Fund Commissioners in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). The posts of Regional Provident Fund Commissioners (Grade III) and Deputy Regional Provident Fund Commissioners are equivalent and belong to a common cadre carrying the same scale of pay. Their posting either as Regional Provident Fund Commissioner or Deputy Regional Provident Fund Commissioner does not involve any supersession or monetary loss. Their postings as Regional Provident Fund Commissioner or Deputy Regional Provident Fund Commissioner are done on administrative considerations and in the exigencies of public service.

(e) and (f). Does not arise.

Junior Engineers upgraded as Junior Engineers Group 'B' Officers in P&T Department

3559. SHRI TRILOK CHAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 800 J.Es were upgraded as J.Es. Group 'B' officers in May 1981 and whether SC/ST candidates were also promoted according to the quota or reservation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the P&T Department had conducted a competitive examination in November, 1981 for the remaining JEs to be selected in which mostly persons belonging to the SCs/STs remaining were candidates;

(d) if so, reasons why an examination for the remaining approved candidates only was conducted;

(e) whether all the selected candidates had necessarily to take the 1981 competitive examination (those already promoted and those who were yet to be promoted) or only those candidates who were yet to be promoted were required to take the competitive examination; and

(f) if so, the reasons why SC/ST candidates were asked to take examination separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a)

Yes, Sir. 800 Junior Engineers were promoted to TES Group 'B' in May, 1981. The officers belonging to SC and ST among these 800 officers were also promoted in May, 1981.

(b) The remaining officers in the reservation quota were promoted w.e.f. from 30-6-82, since they appeared comparatively lower in position in the approved panel of 1200 as per the prescribed rules.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The P&T Department had conducted a Competitive Examination for promotion from Junior Engineers to TES. Group 'B' for 33 per cent quota in March, 1982 in which, those officials who had already qualified in the Departmental Qualifying Examination were eligible. This was meant for all candidates including SC/ST officers.

(e) The Competitive Examination was not compulsory. It was open to all the officials who had already qualified the Departmental Qualifying Examination.

(f) Does not arise.

Setting up Radio Stations in Orissa

3560. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have selected sites for some additional Radio Stations to be set up in Orissa, in view of the frequent attack of cyclones as it has happened recently;

(b) if so, the details regarding the locations thereof; and

(c) the progress so far made in implementing the project which was earlier taken into hand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Survey for Detecting Coal Reserves

3561. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited, the planning nucleus of Coal India Limited, has drawn up any special plan to take up exploration on a priority basis for detecting sizeable quantity of coal reserves in various coal-fields in the country;

(b) what are the names of the places and States where exploration work has been carried out and is being carried out;

(c) the results achieved; and

(d) financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detailed exploration on a priority basis is being carried out in Kasta (East), Ardhagram and Bakulia in West Bengal, Pirpainty/Barahat, Hura 'C', Piparwar and Ashok in Bihar, Amolori, Dipka, Sialghogri, Rawanwara North and Gotitoria East and West in MP, Kalinga and Belpahar in Orissa. These areas are distributed in the coalfields of Raniganj, Rajmahal, Singrauli, North Karanpura, Talcher, IB Valley, Korba, Pench Valley and Mohpani.

(c) Exploration in all the above areas is in progress and so far a total of 1,38,342 metres of drilling has been carried out and is likely to be completed by the end of 1983. As a result of this, nearly 3,900 million tonnes of coal reserves are likely to be established.

(d) The programme of exploration in the priority blocks as indicated above will cost approximately Rs. 12 crores.