

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Request by Gujarat for Increase in Rate of Royalty on crude oil

2448. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL:
SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to increase the rate of royalty on crude oil production;

(b) if so, when the request was made;

(c) what steps have been taken in this respect;

(d) what are the criteria adopted for fixing the rate of royalty on crude oil;

(e) whether it is a fact that the rate of royalty being paid to Gujarat is less than the rate according to the criteria adopted; and

(f) if so, whether the rate of royalty is proposed to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In June, 1981.

(c) The matter is being examined in detail.

(d) The royalty payable on the indigenously produced crude oil is regulated under the provisions of the Oil-fields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948. According to the provisions of this Act, the rate of royalty is not to be enhanced more than once during any period of four years and is not to exceed 20 per cent of the sale price of

the mineral oil at the oil-fields or the oil well-head as the case may be.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Legislation on Dowry

2449. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Dowry;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring legislation seeking necessary amendments on the basis of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Dowry; and

(c) if so, when will such legislation be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): (a) to (c). The recommendations of the Joint Committee of the Houses of examine the question of the working of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 are being considered by the Government and necessary legislation for amendment of the Act is likely to be brought before Parliament during the next session of Parliament.

Development of Postal and Telegraph Services in North Eastern Region

2450. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes that will be taken up during the sixth Five Year Plan in the North Eastern Region for the development of Post and Telegraph services; and

(b) how many villages in the region are not covered by postal services?