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9. Tripura	Legislative Assembly 18-Charilam	7.4.1983	Electoral roll of the constituency under revision—Programme to hold bye-election in November, 1983, is under consideration.
10. Uttar Pradesh	House of the People 78-Bullandshahr	5.12.1982	Programme with date of poll in October, 1983 for bye-election, is under consideration.
	Legislative Assembly 57-Pilibhit 191-Siswa 335-Madhogarh 199-Fazil Nagar	17.12.1982 14.12.1982 10.5.1983 28.3.1983	Programme with date of poll in October, 1983, for bye-elections is under consideration. Electoral Rolls for 199-Fazilnagar and 335-Madhogarh, assembly constituencies are under revision.

**Gas Reserves in Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri Basins**

439. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether seismic surveys to establish crude and gas reserves in the Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri basins have been completed ;

(b) if so, what is the estimated amount of the crude and gas reserves available in these basins ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to explore and exploit the same fully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI

GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Programme of Accelerated Exploration of these two basins has been prepared by ONGC which envisages intensification of seismic surveys and exploratory drilling.

**Address by the President of Employers' Federation of India about Lacunae in Labour Laws**

440. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether President of the Employers' Federation of India while addressing the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Federation, held at Bombay on May 18, 1983,

pointed to certain 'dangerous' lacunae in the labour laws ;

(b) what are the details of these lacunae ; and

(c) what steps have been or are being taken to remove the same ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the important points made are listed in the statement attached.

(c) Proposals for amending the Industrial Disputes Act to lay down a procedure for identifying the bargaining agent, etc. are already under consideration.

#### Statement

1. Certain safeguards in the structure of labour laws could alone prevent avoidable dangers to industrial harmony.
2. There is no provision in labour legislation except in the State Acts of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, for identifying the bargaining agent.
3. A fool-proof system of identifying a bargaining agent is such an essential pre-requisite for collective bargaining that, unless it has the approval of all trade union federations of the country, it would be putting the cart before the horse in reporting to collective bargaining for settlement of industrial disputes.
4. Unless this stalemate is resolved, inter-union and intra-union rivalry will jeopardise all prospects of industrial peace.

#### Increase in the price of Newspapers

441. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain newspapers, such as Financial Express have increased the sale price of the daily newspaper, with effect from June 1, this year ;

(b) if so, whether the increase has had the approval of Government ; and

(c) what is the extent of the increase and the justification thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The newspapers are not required to obtain approval of the Government for increasing their sale price.

(c) Some newspapers like the "Financial Express" and the "Patriot" have increased their sale price by 10 paise each. The increase has been generally attributed by the newspapers concerned to the rising cost of production and operation.

#### Fire at LPG Plant of Gujarat Refinery

442. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a fire broke out at the liquified Petroleum Gas Bottling Plant of the Gujarat Refinery on Wednesday 1 June, 1983 ;

(b) if so, what was the cause of the fire and the extent of loss of life and property involved therein ; and

(c) what steps have since been taken to prevent any recurrence of such incident ?

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