

National Integration Council

*685. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to revive and re-constitute the National Integration Council; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): (a) and (b). Government has initiated action to get issues relevant to national integration considered in depth. The question of reactivating the National Integration Council and its other bodies will be considered in due course.

Meeting of Coal Sub-Committee of National Apex Body

*686. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Sub-Committee of the National Apex Body recently met at Calcutta and considered proposals for welfare of miners;

(b) whether the meeting recommended amalgamation of coalmines provident fund organisation and coalmines welfare organisation in the national sector; and

(c) what other suggestions in addition to the above were made and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) There is no coal sub-committee of the National Apex Body. There is, however, a Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry, which met on the 20th March, 1976 in Calcutta and discussed among other things, matters relating to the welfare of mine workers.

(b) The matter of taking over of the Coal Mines Provident Fund

Organisation and the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Organisation by the Coal Industry was raised in the meeting. On earlier occasions the Joint Bipartite Committee recommended integration of coal-mines Provident Fund Organisation and the Coalmines Labour Welfare Organisation with the public sector coal companies.

(c) The Joint Bipartite Committee in their meeting held on 20th March, 1976 laid emphasis on the implementation of the unanimous recommendations of the safety conferences, increased activity in construction of houses and provision of water supply and other amenities to the workers and implementation of the scheme of Workers' participation at different levels. The public sector coal companies are trying to implement these suggestions to the extent possible.

Exemption from Licensing for Industrial Units sponsoring Research

*687. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to exempt such industrial units from licences which sponsor research in approved laboratories; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b). Government desires to encourage commercialisation of technology developed by national laboratories in the country so that technological self-reliance can be successfully pursued. It has accordingly been decided that henceforth industrial undertakings other than those falling within the purview of the Monopolies and Restricted Trade Practices Act and Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, which take up the manufacture of any item based on the technology developed by any of the laboratories established by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and laboratories approved by

the Department of Science & Technology will be exempted from the licensing provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act. This facility will also be available in respect of sponsored research undertaken by such laboratories on behalf of industrial undertakings. This facility is subject to the condition that the item of manufacture is not one reserved for development in public sector or small scale sector or governed by special regulations.

Financial aid to Universities for Rural Development Research

*688. SHRI P. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.S.I.R. has drawn up a scheme to provide cent percent financial aid to Universities for rural development research by scientists; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SHANKAR GHOSE): (a) and (b). The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has no scheme to give cent percent financial aid to Universities for rural development work.

A proposal is, however, under consideration to give more emphasis to rural development work by awarding Fellowships to increasing number of deserving candidates in this area in Universities/IITs. The selected Fellows are expected to take up R & D problems in fields more directly linked to development work in rural areas.

Horse Racing in Tamil Nadu

3306. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu are considering to re-introduce horse-racing at Ooty; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). In view of the stay order passed by the Supreme Court in appeal against the judgment of the Madras High Court and stay of operation of the Tamil Nadu Horse Races (Abolition of Wagering of Batting) Act, 1974 read with Madras City Police and Gaming (Amendment) Act, 1949 the Madras Race Club has resumed horse racing at Ooty with effect from 28-4-1976. However, there is no change in the policy of the State Government.

Construction of Roads by China along Borders

3307. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese have built roads of vital military importance in Tibet leading to India's frontiers touching Ladakh and Tsepla along the borders of Sikkim and Bhutan; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) Government are aware of road construction by the Chinese across our borders in Tibet.

(b) These and related developments bearing on our security are taken into account in our defence planning.

Guidelines to States regarding Expenditure to be incurred in Backward Districts and Tribal Areas

3308. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines to the States