

While the locations under SC/ST category are to be developed by the Corporation under Corpus Fund Scheme, the location for FF and Open category have been advertised as 'A' site. Under Corpus Fund Scheme and 'A' site ROs land etc. is to be provided by the oil companies. Since the ROs at Ramji Ka Gol, Chandan, Surana and Junia were ready for commissioning, these were allowed to be operated by IOC on ad hoc basis as per Oil Industry policy.

On receipt of a complaint the ad-hoc dealerships at Ramji Ka Gol and Chandan were suspended. However, on investigation by the Corporation the complaint was found baseless and the operation of these two ROs were resumed again. Ad hoc dealers have also been appointed for Surana and Junia but the ad-hoc dealership commissioned for location Junia has since been continued. Presently only three retail outlets viz. Chandan, Ramji ka Gol and Surana are in operation on ad-hoc basis in Rajasthan.

Government has already finalised selection procedure for allotment of dealerships/distributorships. The selection of dealers is to be made, out of the applying candidate by DSB, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

Welfare of Beedi Workers

5907. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the beedi workers had met the collector and commissioner of Jabalpur district on 13th October, 1997 for redressal of their grievances;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that the beedi workers are deprived of the benefits of the beedi workers welfare provident fund scheme, group insurance scheme and Housing scheme etc. due to collusion between the labour department and company owners; and

(c) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government to provide these facilities to the beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is implementing various welfare schemes in the fields of Health, Housing, Education and Recreation, under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund including Provident Fund Scheme and Group Insurance Scheme through the Labour Welfare organisation, Jabalpur, with active participation of State Labour Department and dispensaries functioning under the Fund.

Reservation of Services for SC/ST

5908. SHRI MAHENDRAJEET SINGH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has made provision for 5 and 45% reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in districts falling under Scheduled Tribes-sub-Plan area of the State;

(b) if so, whether State Government has made provision for reservation for other backward classes in this area and if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the proposal of the Government in regard to increase the reservation quota of Scheduled Castes in the area falling under Scheduled Tribe-sub-Plan; and

(d) the basis on which the reservation has been made by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government of Rajasthan and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Oil Exploration in West Bengal

5909. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ONGC is going slow in its exploratory work and the oil exploration work at Ichapur in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent for the said project so far;

(d) whether the exploratory exercise by the ONGC over the years in West Bengal have found out oil deposit which is operationally viable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A sum of Rs. 53.78 crores has been spent on exploratory drilling in respect of Ichapur area till March 31, 1998.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.