

of the country, they were advised to explore the possibilities of BOT/Joint Venture in Shipbuilding/Shiprepair. CSL explored the possibility to establish Joint Venture in Shiprepair but has not been successful in view of its present financial status. The Yard has initiated action to forge strategic alliances with overseas partners on project to project basis.

Setting up of Reconciliation Centres

13. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "Bijoy" : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of reconciliation centres have been set-up in Gujarat to overcome the burden of Court cases;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to set-up such centres in other States to reduce the burden of Court cases;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to give any direction to other States for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (e) A number of reconciliation centres have been established in the State of Gujarat by Gujarat State Legal Services Authority for amicable settlement of disputes between the parties. Lok Adalats are now taking over the functions and role of reconciliation centres throughout the country under the directions of the National Legal Services Authority established under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. The Lok Adalats have been provided a statutory base with the enforcement and extension of Chapter III of the said Act to all the States and U.T. Administrations. The Lok Adalats are now vested with the power of a Civil Court and the awards passed by the Lok Adalats are final, binding on the parties and are also non-appealable. Pursuant to the decision taken by the National Legal Services Authority at its first meeting held on 13th September, 1997 it has been decided to set up permanent and continuous Lok Adalats in all the Districts in the country for providing an additional forum to the litigants for conciliatory settlement of their disputes to relieve some burden from the regular courts. The permanent and continuous Lok Adalats would be reconciliation forum with a statutory basis. Efforts are also afoot to establish permanent and continuous Lok Adalats in the Government Departments, Statutory Bodies and

Public Sector Undertakings which involve in a large number of legal matters.

Bringing Government Departments under MRTTP Act

14. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.3510 dated August 30, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the judgement has since been examined;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether CPWD falls under the category of departments charging money for a service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (d) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has filed a Special Leave Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court contesting the judgement dated 1st July 1996 of the MRTTP Commission in RTP Enquiry No. 241 of 1995. The matter is still subjudice before the Apex Court.

As the applicability of a judgement would depend on facts and circumstances of each case, it would not be possible to pronounce an opinion about other Departments without having all the facts.

[Translation]

Training and Employment Programme for Women

15. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Bihar Government for training and employment programme for women;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.