

Tiruchi Railway Junction and one in the Alleppey Express at the Tiruchur Railway Station. In these incidents nine persons were killed while sixty persons sustained severe injuries.

(c) and (d) A request was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for ordering a CBI probe into these incidents. The views of the CBI in this regard have been communicated to the State Government. The response of the State Government is awaited.

Ban on Child Labour in Carpet Industry

1057. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to ban child labour in the carpet industry;

(b) if so, the date by which the child labour is likely to be banned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) Employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations (including the carpet industry), is already prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1997

1058. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance issued on October 1, 1997, has since been lapsed;

(b) if so, the regulations are in force for regulating or controlling the issue and sale of lotteries; and

(c) the reasons for not bringing a legislation before the Parliament to regulate rather ban Central and State Government lotteries as per entry 40 of the Union List in Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) to (c) In order to give continued effect to the provisions of the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1997 promulgated on the 1st day of October, 1997, the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance 1997 was promulgated on the 30th day of December, 1997. As the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance, 1997, was going to lapse on the 5th day of May, 1998, the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998 was promulgated on the 23rd day of April, 1998.

In order to replace the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998 by an Act, the Lotteries (Regulation) Bill,

1998 has since been introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 27th day of May, 1998.

Reservation of STs Candidates

1059. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Delhi has sought the permission of Ministry of Home Affairs to do away with 7.5 per cent reservation for scheduled tribes candidates in recruitment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the NCT of Delhi, and shall be laid down on the Table of the House.

Census on Enclaves

1060. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which the census of Indian Citizens in 119 exchangeable enclaves of India in Bangladesh was made last, Enclave-wise;

(b) whether that was the first and the last census of those Indian Enclaves; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not conducting the census of those enclaves; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not conducting the census of those enclaves by the Government since then ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI) : (a) The Census of Indian Citizens in 119 exchangeable enclaves of Indian in Bangladesh was conducted at the 1951 Census.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has no administrative control or access to the Enclaves lying within Bangladesh and hence it has not been possible to conduct any Census after 1951.

Oil and Gas Exploration

1061. COL. SONA- RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :