

Festival of India

6108. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently two Air India (AI) Air hostesses were officially selected to represent AI at the Festival of India in the Cambodian Capital, Laos;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the duo were instead made model in some revealing clothes of a foreign fashion designer;

(c) whether they were also made to model at some cafe where they were subjected to humiliation; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to probe into the matter and initiate action against those officials who were responsible for such humiliations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Air Hostesses have alleged that they were made to wear revealing dresses designed by a private designer and perform like models at a hotel cafeteria. However, our Ambassador in Laos has reported that the allegations are completely false.

(d) The management of Air India has submitted its report on the matter which is under examination of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

LPG Agencies

6109. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3846 on December 12, 1996, regarding LPG Agencies and state :

(a) whether the information in this regard has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some more information is required to be furnished by the oil companies.

Tibet Issue

6110. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese Government have recently offered negotiations with Dalai Lama over the issue of Tibet;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to play any role in respect of negotiations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Government are not aware of any new offer by the Chinese Government of negotiations with the Dalai Lama.

(b) to (d) No, Sir, does not arise.

Restructuring of ONGC

6111. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad has made a study to restructure the ONGC;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations from Members of Parliament and others in this connection;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to restructure ONGC in the light of recommendations and representations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) ONGC Ltd. had given a consultancy assignment to the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, in July 1994, for carrying out a study on Strategic Planning and Organisational Restructuring of the Corporation. ASCI submitted its report to ONGC in August, 1995. The ONGC has not made any proposals so far to the Government for restructuring of the ONGC.

Child Labour in M.P.

6112. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of child labourers in Madhya Pradesh is around 13 lakhs and the budget allocation made for the child labour projects being implemented by the Union and State Government is not sufficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Child Labour Projects are presently being implemented in 76 districts in the country including 5 districts in the State of Madhya Pradesh. These projects are fully funded by the Central

Government as per the National Child Labour Project Scheme. It has been decided that the question of sanctioning additional projects would be considered only after the evaluation of the on-going projects, which is already on.

Accelerated Urban Water Supply

6113. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any communication from a Member of Parliament requesting that certain small towns which are to become municipalities in Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh where water is a perennial problem be given special attention under the accelerated urban water supply scheme for small towns;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the names of other small towns in various districts of Andhra Pradesh which are being considered under the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir. Central assistance under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme is available only to urban bodies and not to small towns with less than 20,000 population, which are yet to be converted into urban bodies/municipalities.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has informed that in the State the Municipalities are constituted for towns with a population of 25,000 or more and the towns having population less than this are under the control of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Authority. Therefore, due to population criteria no town has become eligible for assistance under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme which is applicable to towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 census.

Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in November, 1996 has forwarded project proposals for Bhattiprolu town in Guntur District for consideration under AUWSP. This Ministry has already requested the State Govt. to forward the same through the State Level Selection Committee as per guidelines of the programme.

Crude Oil

6114. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-availability of proper technique, the crude oil produced in the country, is sent to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of crude oil of such quality sent

to other countries during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action so far for refining such crude oil in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

IBM'S Participation in India Trade

6115. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Business Machinery has decided to rise its participation in Indian trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Two proposals for foreign investment by IBM World Trade Corporation USA have been received by Govt. The first proposal is for enhancement in the equity capital of an existing Joint Venture between Tata Industries Ltd. and associates and M/s. IBM World Trade Corporation, USA, for manufacturer of computer systems. The second proposal is for setting up of a joint venture company between by M/s. IBM World Trade Corporation New York and Tata Information Systems Ltd. in the area of information technology services.

(c) Government is yet to take a view on the proposals.

Refinery in Karnal

6116. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the proposed oil refinery located at Karnal (Haryana) is likely to be commissioned;

(b) the date which was fixed for its commissioning previously; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard and the steps being taken to expedite the work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) As against the original schedule of mechanical completion of April, 1997, the Refinery Project in Panipat District is now expected to be completed during the current year. The delay has occurred mainly because of slippages in delivery of equipments and job execution by vendors.

A close follow-up is being maintained by IOC with the vendors on regular basis for expediting the delivery.