

clearly that there is a big racket going on with its rivers? And the Public Accounts Committee in its report, at recommendation No.17, clearly stated that there shall be a CBI inquiry and it was taken up. May I know, why was it given up on later on by the Government and for what interest?

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:** Sir, as far as this question is concerned I do not have any knowledge. This question is about modernisation. However, I will look into it and inform the Member.

[*English*]

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:** Sir, this is a very serious question.

[*Translation*]

**SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there must be Half-an-Hour discussion on it. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI AYUB KHAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Member Vasundhrajji for raising the question which is related to my constituency. A huge amount of Rs. 260 crores is proposed to be spent on the modernisation of this company. At the same time I would like to point out that due to the pollution caused by it wells of farmers have dried up, cultivation has been affected and 50 percent workers of that company have become T.B. patients. So, what measures are proposed to be taken by the Government to check this pollution?

**SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:** The amount earmarked for the modernisation and expansion scheme is Rs. 1350 crore not Rs. 260 crores. Rs. 95 crores has been allocated in the 8th Five Year Plan for the Hindustan Copper Ltd. to check the pollution.

**SHRI ANNA JOSHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the project report and Geological Survey report were obtained prior to setting up the Khetri Factory

and whether inquiries regarding the capability of the companies which were given contract for the toll-smelting, refining etc. were made? I have raised this question because the Mark-Ritch Company, which was given the toll smelting has now been black-listed and the fresh contract has been given to Trans-Mines Company recently started in U.K. by Shri V.P. Singh who was once the Adjoining Secretary of the former company. (*Interruptions*)

I want to know whether Geological Survey was conducted and project report was obtained or not and whether the ability of the contracted company has been ascertained or not; if so, then why was it black-listed?

**SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member's question is not related to the original question. However on the basis of the information given by the member I would try to ascertain the position and inform him.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

### Regional Office of ONGC at Vijayawada

\*308 **SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a regional office of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Vijayawada in view of the discovery of abundant gas and oil in Krishna district and in the Godavari basin;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be established; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The Southern Regional Office at Madras and the Project Office at Rajahmundry are at present looking after the work of the area. ONGC will consider opening new offices as and when workload justifies it.

[*Translation*]

**Irrigation Projects**

\*309. SHRI RAM TAHAL  
CHOUHARY:  
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER

RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for irrigation projects received by the Union Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of such proposals which have since been cleared, State-wise; and

(c) the number of proposals still pending with the Union Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). A Statement is attached.