

Bench of Supreme Court

1711. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government examined the feasibility of setting up a bench of Supreme Court in southern States;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up additional benches in important places in the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether any representation for setting up of such a bench has been submitted by the Bar Association, State Governments and other organisations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the response of the Government there-to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (f) Representations have been received from various Bar Associations, State Governments and other Organisations, from time to time, for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court at various places. According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time appoint. As such, the matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India. No proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India in this regard. No action is contemplated by the Central Government till such a proposal is received.

Improt of Processed Food by European Countries

1712. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :

SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union Buyers have been purchasing processed Indian food worth crores of rupees every year through U.K.; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by the Government or the Industry to sell Indian food products directly to European Union Market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Processed food products are being exported to European Union including U.K. Some of the Steps taken to promote exports of processed food products, including to markets in the European Union, are :-

(a) Arranging promotional campaigns in the potential markets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

(b) Organising Buyer-Seller Meets in important Markets.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Coal Sector

1713. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :

DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to scrap the list of 56 odd coal blocks earlier identified to be offered to private investors for commercial exploitation;

(b) if so, the reasons for scrapping the list;

(c) whether the Government have drawn up any fresh list of coal blocks which could be offered to private and foreign investors;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Chari Committee on privatisation of coal sector, which allowed 100% equity participation by private investors and upto 50% by foreign investors for commercial mining;

(f) if so, the names of private and foreign investors who have been permitted for investment in coal blocks and the details of the coal blocks that have been offered to the private sector or foreign companies for exploration; and

(g) the time by which the exploration of coal mines is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (c) of the question.

(e) to (g) The Committee on Integrated Coal Policy did not recommend privatisation of the entire coal sector and therefore the question of the Government taking such a decision does not arise. However, on consideration of the report of the Committee, the Government have taken the following decisions subject to legislative approvals:-

(i) To permit any Indian company to mine coal;

(ii) Setting up of an Independent Body to monitor detailed and regional exploration of coal and lignite resources