

which requires state-of-the-art technologies besides new approach/strategy towards exploration of such areas.

- (iii) The exploratory efforts were hitherto concentrated mainly in 6 petroliferous Cat. I basins with little efforts in other basins.

To boost the exploration activities, ONGC has drawn a recast programme for the IX Five Year Plan. Significant changes in physical inputs and the approach are:

- Inducting state-of-the-art processing and interpretation hardware/software.
- Much higher inputs in terms of 3D acquisition.
- Additional inputs for 2D seismic and wells over the original IXth Plan.
- About 298 new prospects are proposed to be probed out of a total inventory of 367 prospects.
- Intensified exploration activities are planned in the deep water areas and new frontier basins.
- Adopting state-of-the-art technologies to enhance sub-surface imaging in geologically complex areas like thrust fold belts, sub-trappean sequences and deeper prospects in known basins.

[Translation]

Bonded Labour

3976. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children below the age of 14 years are working as bonded labour, in each state;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to free and rehabilitate those bonded child labour; and

(c) the details and number of bonded child labour freed and rehabilitated during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The following State Governments have reported identification of children below the age of 14 years working as bonded labour:

(1) Andhra Pradesh	-	29
(2) Maharashtra	-	4
(3) Tamil Nadu	-	1942

The children have been released and restored to their parents.

(b) Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the identification, release and subsequent rehabilitation of the freed bonded labourers is the direct responsibility of the State Governments concerned. Under the Act, no distinction is made between child and adult bonded labour. Therefore the guidelines issued to the State Govts. for rehabilitation of bonded labour are applicable to bonded child labour also.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation scheme as assistance upto the ceiling limit of Rs. 10,000/- is given to each released bonded labour. The expenditure is equally shared by the Centre and State Government concerned on (50:50) basis. The State Govts. have also been advised to integrate/dovetail the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour with other anti poverty schemes such as IRDP, JAY, JRY, TRYSEM, DWCRA, Special Component Plan/ Sub-plan so as to pool the resources for the effective rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

(c) Age-wise and year wise break-up of bonded labourers is not available. However, in the survey conducted by the State Governments in December, 1996 the following number of bonded labourers have been reported to be identified:

1. Arunachal Pradesh	3517
2. Bihar	106
3. Karnataka	19
4. Madhya Pradesh	18
5. Maharashtra	2
6. Uttar Pradesh	237
7. Tamil Nadu	25008

Total	28907
-------	-------

[English]

Dental Degrees provided by unrecognised Universities

3977. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dental degrees of some Universities are not presently treated as recognised/registered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these degrees have since been recognised;