

(e) the action proposed to be taken to compensate Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) for financial losses as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per original schedule, gas supply to Ramgarh extension project was to begin in April, 1995, whereas RSEB completed the project only in January, 1996. Gas supply commenced only from June 1996 when gas became available from the fields of Oil India Limited.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Reservation for Backward Classes in Educational Institutions

1935. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to provide 27 per cent reservation for the backward classes in educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir.

A proposal for providing 27% reservation to Backward Classes in educational institutions is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Atrocities on Women

1936. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government chalked out any plans to check atrocities against women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to hold any conference of State Ministers concerned and the voluntary agencies engaged in this field;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Contractual Appointment of Journalists

1937. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the owners of big newspapers in the country are making contractual appointments of the journalists and workers in violation of the recommendations of the wage board;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such appointments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Wage Boards for Journalists and Non-Journalist newspaper and news-agency employees are advisory in nature. The Government has been receiving representations regarding ban on contract employment etc. At present there is no proposal to amend the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 in this regard.

[English]

Child Adoption

1938. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian child is losing in adoption by parents from the West and they are turning to other neighbouring countries for this purpose due to greedy agent and social activities;

(b) whether the Government proposed to streamline the child adoption so as the said children get foster home outside the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No Sir, No such information is available with the Government.

(b) and (c) The adoption of Indian children outside the country has been streamlined and is governed by the "Revised Guidelines for Adoption of Indian Children" issued by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on 29th May,