

Ban on Sumitomo Corporation

1952. SHRI G. M. BANATWALIA:
SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted the ban imposed on the Consortium of five Japanese companies led by Sumitomo;

(b) when was the said ban imposed, under what circumstances, and for what reasons; and

(c) if the ban has been lifted, the reasons therefor and since when?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In July 1988, newspaper reports indicated that M/s. Sumitomo Corporation have paid certain amounts as commission to an Indian company i.e. M/s. Jyotsna Holdings in violation of the terms of the tender for the contract. On receipt of this information an explanation was sought from M/s. Jyotsna Holdings as a Consultant and not as an agent. In the light of discussions in Parliament and on the basis of legal opinion of the First Additional Solicitor General of India and the Attorney General of India, Government decided on 23.12.1989 that ONGC and GAIL should not give any further business to the Consortium of firms that functioned in the name of M/s. Sumitomo Corporation. The ONGC & GAIL were also advised to initiate action for appropriate relief.

Subsequently orders were issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals on 9.2.1990 to PSUs under its control not to give further business to the Consortium of Japanese firms.

(c) Question does not arise.

Conversion of Pathankot-Baljnath Paprola Line

1953. SHRI D. D. KHONORIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the feasibility study for conversion of narrow gauge line between Pathankot and Baijnath Paprola known as K. V. Railway into metre gauge line has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the recommendation thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Land Reserved for Industrial Establishment

1954. BABA SUCHA SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Punjab Government under the Regional town and country planning has reserved 123 acres of land for industrial establishment;

(b) if so, how much of that land has been utilised;

(c) if not, whether a large number of industries have been set up and licenses granted by Union Government violating the country Planning; and

(d) whether Government propose to ensure that the industry is set up only on the