

same, but if the other two exchanges which are connected *via* Mhow are directly connected to Indore, it would lead to rapid development of that area and I would be grateful to you for the same.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Sir, all the exchanges would be connected to Indore.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :** Many thanks to you, Sir.

**SHRIMATI USHA VERMA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if there is any programme to replace those boards of the exchanges, which are not functioning properly?

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is a routine affair.

**SHRIMATI USHA VERMA :** I have written many time about Lakhimpur Kheri that the exchange there is not functioning properly. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what action is being taken to set it right immediately?

**MR. SPEAKER :** He would get it done.

[*English*]

**SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA :** Will the Hon. Minister kindly let us know whether exchanges which are complete in all respects will be commissioned or not? For instance, I am quoting the example of the Panchkula Exchange which is complete in all respects.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It does not fall within this question.

**Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps to Social Workers.**

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\*560. **SHRI R. M. BHOYE :**  
**SHRI JAGANNATH**  
**PATTNAIK :**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be

pleased to state :

(a) the various categories of persons to whom LPG agencies and petrol pumps are allotted;

(b) whether social workers are also benefited in this regard; and

(c) if so, the number of social workers allotted petrol pumps in Maharashtra during the last three years?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :**

(a) Presently 70% of the dealerships of petroleum products are allotted by the oil companies to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Unemployed Graduates, Physically Handicapped and Freedom Fighters and the remaining 30% to others.

(b) There is no specific reservation for Social Workers in the existing guidelines which govern appointment of dealers. Any applications from such persons, if eligible under the guidelines, are considered on merits in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

(c) Since there is no separate reservation for Social Workers, no statistics are maintained by the oil companies in respect of dealerships awarded to them.

**SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :** Sir, in the last part of the reply it is mentioned that the remaining 30 per cent of the dealerships are allotted to 'others'. I would like to know whether ex-servicemen are included in this category. And keeping in view the rate of the sportsmen, will the Government consider having some reservation for sportsmen after their retirement?

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :** Hon. Member has asked

about the ex-servicemen. Of course, ex-servicemen are included if they are physically handicapped. If they are not physically handicapped, of course they have to come on merit.

So far as the question of considering the sportsmen is concerned, I think this is a suggestion for action. However, the general category is only up to 30 per cent ; already there is a reservation up to 70 per cent. Therefore, in the light of the total reservation, this question has to be viewed.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Pulrenu Guha. Next question.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I want to ask a supplementary on that question.

MR. SPEAKER : We have passed that.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is a very important question ; I was raising the hand, you did not see. It is important.

MR. SPEAKER : May be ; that I agree with you.

**Employment of Persons in Oil Drilling Work at Midnapore, West Bengal**

\* 561. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether drilling for oil is going on in Nandigram of district Midnapore in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the type of persons getting jobs there ; and

(c) whether the people whose land is acquired are getting priority for jobs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM

(SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :  
(a) No, Sir.

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

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA : We are not able to understand why the answer to the question is "No" in the first part of the answer, because drilling is going on. We are getting reports also from the papers and from the officials as to how much drilling was done. Why is the answer in the negative, I am not able to understand.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He has not got the reports from the papers, though you might have got.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : You are correct. Drilling work is going on.

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA : Drilling is going on. All my friends from Midnapore will agree with me.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is underground drilling

MR. SPEAKER : Can drilling be above ground ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It looks as though there is some confusion regarding the drilling going on in Midnapore district. The question is specific and it is only with regard to Nandigram. Therefore, the reply is that so far as Nandigram is concerned, there is no drilling going on and therefore the reply is in the negative. Of course, in Midnapore district there are some places where drilling is going on. Therefore, that may be the reason for some confusion.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Nandigram is within my constituency. I have seen with my own eyes that drilling is going on there.

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA : Yes ; drilling is going on there.