

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT):

(a) and (b) Government has seen a news item to this effect that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated October 18, 1987.

The insinuations made in the news item are rather general and vague; and as such, do not warrant any action. However, ONGC's rules and procedures are devised to prevent mal-practices.

Schemes for Rationalisation of Work Force in Public Sector Enterprises

*362. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector enterprises have been asked to prepare schemes for rationalisation of their work force;

(b) if so, what is the response from the units; and

(c) when the schemes will be made public for a healthy debate?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Rationalisation of work force in Public Sector Undertakings is a Management function of the concerned Public Sector Undertakings. No specific instructions were issued in this regard to Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SC/ST Officials in Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

*363. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe officials in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited as on 31 March 1987;

(b) whether the reserved percentage has been filled in the N.L.C.; and

(c) the number of employees in the officers grade belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The total number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe officials comprising executives and non-executives in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited as on 31 March, 1987 was 2523 and not 87 respectively.

(b) It has not been possible to fill the reserved percentage due to non-availability of qualified Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. The unfilled vacancies are being carried forward.

(c) The total number of employees in the officers grade belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited as on 31.3.1987 was 212 and 6 respectively.

Provision of Post Offices in Gram Panchayat Villages

*364. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Gram Panchayat villages in the country do not have a single Post Office;

(b) if so, the number of Gram Panchayat villages in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether any priority would be given to the opening of Post Offices in such Gram Panchayat villages in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) the likely date by which all such Gram Panchayat villages would be provided with atleast one Post Office in each one of them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) According to the information obtained from the Heads of Postal Circles, as on 31.3.87, there were 74,687 gram Panchayats which did not have post offices but were served by post offices established in neighbouring gram panchayats.