

[English]

SHRI J. VENGALA RAO: Sir, this is about the BHEL's unit in Bhopal. This unit was established in 1956. The reservation policy came into force in 1970, and we are observing it. The total reservation quota is 14 per cent in Madhya Pradesh.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI Tiwariji and Dandavateji quarrel inside and hug each other outside.

MR. SPEAKER: If they start quarrelling outside also, then how will the dispute be resolved?

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN Mr Speaker, Sir, it is understandable if some posts reserved for Adivasis and Scheduled Tribes remain vacant, but why the posts reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates are not being filled? Has Government resorted to desertation during the last three years?

[English]

SHRI J. VENGALA RAO: Sir, after the reservation policy came into force, 7436 employees were recruited between 28.7.1970 and 30.6.1987. In this, the representation of Scheduled Castes is 15.65 per cent and Scheduled Tribes is 7.46 per cent. We are filling up the posts. In the case of Scheduled Castes, it is only 5 per cent less. In the case of Scheduled Tribes, we are not getting candidates in Madhya Pradesh. That is the trouble.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: I strongly object to the Minister's statement given right now. The Minister has given a very intelligent answer, instead of giving crude facts here

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is he guilty of intelligence?

MR. SPEAKER: Should I pull him up for that?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Instead of dividing them—in BHEL—in the form of Executives, Supervisors, Artisans, etc., he has devised groups A, B, C and D. But here, in the Executive group as per the 1985-86 statistics of BHEL, there are about 10,914, out of whom there are no Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Supervisors are 12,188, and there is no SC or ST, Artisans are 27,953 wherein the Minister has given a statement saying that there are about 40 SC and 199 ST, Supporting staff number about 3,934, out of whom there are no SC and ST.

Coming to clerical staff, as per BHEL's statistics, there are about 6202 persons, and there are no SC and ST, mentioned here. Coming to unskilled staff, there are 11,982 of them, wherein there are only 4 SCs and 130 STs. In respect of the trainees, the number is 1742 out of whom there are no SC and ST. The total is about 74,915 candidates, and there are only about 400 SCs and STs. When you see the figures, it does reach 0.5% in the BHEL organization.

The present Government speaks about socialism and the 20-point programme. I am not able to appreciate what is happening. The Minister has come recently; I am not blaming the Minister. I am blaming the Government. I want to have answers to these questions. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Please hear him. No cross-talking please.

SHRI J. VENGALA RAO: Kindly hear me. This question is about the BHEL unit at Bhopal. He is referring to all the BHEL units. How can I answer such questions?

Oil and Gas in the Malabar Coast

*126. SHRI I. RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has made any evaluation of finding oil/gas in the Malabar coast;

(b) if so, if any drilling has been done there or is likely to be done in the near future;

(c) whether Government have any plan to lay a pipeline for transport of gas available in the Bombay region to Karnataka and Kerala; and

(d) if so, the time frame within which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Not at present, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI I RAMA RAI: At the beginning of the 6th Five Year Plan, self-reliance of our country on oil was less than 40%. In 1984-85 as a result of the accelerated development at Bombay High, it went up to 70%. But you must know that India's population is one-seventh of the global population, whereas its oil consumption is one-seventieth of the oil consumption of the whole globe. The demand for petroleum products is going up, and we know that the scene is fast changing now in respect of demand for petrol. Does Government have any major proposal in the country's coastline in general, and Kerala in particular, to go beyond the continental shelf for prospecting for oil?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: I agree with the first part of the observation made by the hon. Member. We are moving in that direction. We are intensifying the efforts to explore for oil in off-shore and on-shore also. As I said earlier, it will depend on the new finds, and the new successes that we can attain.

About the Kerala-Konkan coastline, on on-shore, the commercial prospects are not in sight. But on off-shore, there are

very good prospects. We are exploring in Cochin, Kasargode and Karwar. We have drilled off-shore at Cochin, Kasargode and Karwar ports during 1978-80. But these wells proved dry, but we hope to find oil, which is based on the interpretation of the data in the last two years. Fourteen locations have been released for drilling, and we have also offered to the international companies some blocks in this area. Besides these, we are exploring thoroughly in the Kaveri basin and the Krishna-Godavari basin. As the hon. Members are aware, we have entered an agreement with the Soviet Union to explore for oil in Bengal on-shore; and we are ourselves doing off-shore Bengal.

In Andaman also we are doing it. We have made some new finds near Bombay High—another structure. So, we are intensifying our efforts to explore oil in all possible ways.

SHRI I. RAMA RAI: Gas reserve in India is much larger than crude reserve. Has the Government got any proposal to market the compressed natural gas to be used as a substitute for petroleum product and for transportation and industry?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: It is a fact that we have got very good reserves of gas. The hon. Members are aware that we are using that gas through the LPG pipeline which is completed in time. But in Krishna Godavari basin and in Cauvery basin and in Tripura there are very good prospects of gas. Still, it is in the developmental stage. We are making all efforts to develop those resources of natural gas; and LPG, complex LPG is a part of it. Other parts; C1, C2, C3 and C4 also will be utilized.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Is the Government aware that there is a persistent demand for a pipeline similar to HBJ in the north from the south. In the answer you have said that at present there is no proposal. May I know whether any feasibility study has been made; if so, what is the progress of that?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Basically, South will have to be created from Cauvery basin and Goadavari basin and also from Kerala off-shore; that will have to be done. It is very costly to take gas from Bombay High to that area.

[*Translation*]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Sir, it is true that the Department is very efficient in the exploration and drilling of gas. Yet gas worth crores of rupees is being burnt because we are not able to utilise it. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any steps have been taken to prevent burning of the gas worth crores of rupees, and if so, the details thereof?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, the hon. Minister has asked about the gas being burnt. Two kinds of gas are available here. Firstly, the gas coming out along with oil is called associated gas. It is very essential to drill that out and it is also important to utilise it 60 per cent of it is utilised and the remaining 40 per cent has to be burnt. For this purpose, we are installing a LPG extraction plant at Hajira. The pipeline has reached Bijapur and we are installing a LPG extraction plant and other plants there. Similarly, we are setting up an extraction plant at Auraiya in Uttar Pradesh. As the utilisation of gas goes on increasing, the quantity of gas being burnt will also go on decreasing. Our difficulty is that wherever free gas is available, we store it but wherever associated gas is available, we will have to go on burning it so long as it cannot be fully utilised. However, we expect that within the next 2 or 3 years, only 15 per cent of the work of burning the gas will remain.

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any exploration work has been or is being done in the Kutch area of Gujarat where there is a possibility of finding oil and gas?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, enough work is being done. I will provide the

details if he gives either a separate notice or writes to me.

[*English*]

Electoral Reforms

*127. SHRI T. BASHEER:
SHRI D.P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive legislation on electoral reforms during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed legislation and when it is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The proposals for electoral reforms made by the Election Commission are first to be discussed with the political parties. Further action to be taken will be decided thereafter. The question of bringing forward a legislative proposal will arise only then.

SHRI T. BASHEER: The Government, the political parties, the Parliament, all are for electoral reforms. Actually, in 1971, we had reconstituted a Joint Parliamentary Committee and they had submitted their recommendations in 1972 regarding electoral reforms. The present Chief Election Commissioner and the former Chief Election Commissioner have given a series of recommendations regarding this. We had been discussing time and again, many times, this subject in the House. The hon. Minister and his predecessor have been giving the same answer that it is under examination, consultations have to be undergone, discussions to be held and so on.

AN HON. MEMBER: Conceiving but producing nothing.