

perspective acreage offered from time to time by other Governments for oil exploration. Participation by ONGC in such ventures is decided keeping in view the following objectives.

- (i) Success in our Oil Exploration activities in other countries will entitle up to a share of oil which is produced. To the extent to which we can secure oil from these countries as our share of the production we can cut down on the imports of crude oil.
- (ii) The international exposure to different sedimentary basins will help in building up our technical capabilities in this sector.
- (iii) This will also help ONGC in becoming more competitive.

(c) and (d). At present Government has under its consideration, a production sharing contract negotiated between Hydrocarbons India Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC, and Petro-Vietnam, the national oil company of Vietnam, for Government's approval.

ONGC is also examining a proposal for oil exploration in Tanzania.

#### Release of Carbon Feed Stock to Small Scale Units

\*827. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased state :

(a) whether the public sector Oil Corporations are manufacturing carbon feed stock which is being used only by large scale units manufacturing carbon black in bulk quantity; and

(b) whether Government propose to release this feed stock to the small scale units manufacturing products other than carbon black as a substitute of imported raw material ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b). Presently Carbon Black Feed Stock is being utilised by the units manufacturing Carbon Black. While there

is no specific proposal by the small scale units manufacturing products other than Carbon Black for this material there should be no difficulty in meeting their demand out of the indigenous production.

#### Commemorative Stamp in Honour of Kashmir Poet

\*828. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to issue a commemorative stamp in honour of late Gulam Ahmad Mahjoor, a great poet of Kashmir who promoted Hindu-Muslim unity during the freedom movement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Losses suffered by Cement Corporation of India

\*829. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level committee headed by the Chairman and Director General of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials has advised Government to reschedule the loan given to the Cement Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the recommendations made by the Committee and the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) the losses suffered by the Cement Corporation of India during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the gap between expenditure and realisation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations, which are under examination of the Government, include *inter alia* deferment of re-payment of loans and conversion of loans to equity so as to bring the debt equity ratio to 1:1.

(c) CCI had suffered net loss during the last three years as detailed below :-

	(Rs. crores)
1985-86	12.36
1986-87	21.02
1987-88	34.45 (Provisional)

(d) The steps taken include better capacity utilisation, reducing cost of marketing and improving sales realisation.

#### Use of Pigeons for Carrying Mail by Police Department in Orissa

\*830. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the days of airmail, quick mail service and speed post, pigeons are still used by the police department in Orissa for carrying mail;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would like to utilise such services in other States also ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Pigeons are being used by the State Police Department in Orissa for carrying mails.

(b) A quick gathering of information by PMG, Orissa reveals as follows :-

This is an internal service of the Police Department of the Government of Orissa. This service is limited to carriage of police Department mails (of police) within the State and is confined to ten selected centres in the state. Trained pigeons are utilised for carriage of mails for this purpose. The service is intended to keep the contents of the message most secret and reliable. This service is under the charge of Superintendent Police Crime Branch, Cuttack. Further authentic details have been called for from the Police Department, Orissa State. On receipt, the same will be submitted.

(c) This Service through pigeons is a special service operated by the Orissa State

Police to meet their internal mail requirements. The Ministry of Communications of the Union of India has nothing to do with this Service. The Ministry of Communications of the Government of India does not propose to utilise such service in any State in India.

#### Scheme to Revitalise Coir Industry in Kerala

\*832. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have studied the difficulties faced by the coir industry in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether any specific scheme is being envisaged to revitalise coir industry during the remaining period of Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether Union Government have received any schemes from Kerala Government in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) to (d). Government of India have been reviewing from time to time the status of coir industry in Kerala. In September, 1986 the Government introduced a single point levy at retter's site to make coconut husk available in adequate quantities and at regulated prices to co-operative societies. The same year, the Government of Kerala presented a proposal captioned "Rehabilitation and Modernisation Fund for Kerala" for revitalising the Coir Industry.

After a careful consideration of the various measures suggested by the Government of Kerala, the Prime Minister had during his visit to Kerala in January, 1987, announced a package of programmes designed to rehabilitate the industry. The package includes extension of rebate scheme on sale of coir products and coir yarn to 90 days in a year for the remaining part of the Seventh Plan Period and wider coverage of model coir village scheme. In addition, at the instance of the Government of Kerala, the single point levy scheme on coconut husk, was replaced in March 1988