

calculations, so that you would not exhaust even this amount.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : He need not be so humble. Let him put the question. (*Interruptions*)

My question is the other way. Coal is depleting day by day and a day may come when we may not have coal. I want to know how the Minister is going to preserve the coal for the future generation? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : Sir, the hon. Member is very right that we have to conserve coal to the extent possible.

Prohibited Bores Among the Breech Loading Fire Arms

*416. SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD:

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) which among the breech loading fire arms are the prohibited bores;

(b) what is an 'obsolete pattern' weapon among fire arms; and

(c) what is an 'antiquarian value' weapon among fire arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) The term 'prohibited bores' has not been defined in the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 1962. However, the term has been used in the executive instructions issued by the Central Govt. to State Govts. and Union Territory Administrations from time to time to connote weapons which have been in use by Armed/Para Military Forces/Police. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been instructed by the Central Government to restrict the issue of possession licences for such weapons to the members of the public, to the minimum.

(b) and (c) The term 'obsolete pattern' and 'antiquarian value' occur in Section 45(c) of the Arms Act, 1959, which deals with the cases to which the Arms Act does not apply. The main condition for application of the provisions under Section 45(c) is that the weapons should not be capable of being used as a fireman either with or without repair.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: In the instructions issued to the State Governments as to which particular calibre of weapons has been declared as prohibited bore, is it a fact that the list of prohibited bore weapons differs from one State to another and, if so, is the Government thinking of declaring .30 carbine as a prohibited weapon and is it also a fact that some States have banned issuing of licences for .30 carbine?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: The weapons referred to as prohibited bore under the Central Government instructions are included in category 1(c) schedule I appended to the Arms Rules, 1962. It contains the following list:

Bolt action or semi-automatic rifles of .303" or 7.62 mm. bore or any other bore which can chamber and fire surface ammunition of .303" or 7.62 mm. calibre; muskets of .410" bore or any other bore which can fire .410" musket ammunition.

I can just clarify that there is no total ban on the issue of licence. But we have only restricted that it should not be given to the public freely and due care would be taken in case it is issued.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: What about .03 carbine? In U.P., the issue of licences for this weapon is banned. You cannot get a licence for .30 carbine. Are you banning this weapon totally?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): The pistols, rifles and carbines of any bore which can chamber and fire surface ammunition of .303" or .410" are under the banned list.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: I am talking of .30 carbine. This was allowed by the Janata Government during their regime. Are you going to declare it as a prohibited weapon? It has been used for mass murders.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: No new licences for carbines are issued now. However, the previous licences which have been issued are under scrutiny by the various State Governments.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: Regarding antique and obsolete weapons, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply:

“The main condition for application of the provisions under Section 45(c) is that the weapons should not be capable of being used as a fire-arm either with or without repair.”

I would like to ask the Government: Can the firearms be used if the ammunition of that firearm is not being manufactured any where in the world in the last 10 years? And, if so, will it become obsolete weapon and be exempted from the Arms Act?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: We have made it clear that in the rules which we are going to frame under the amended Arms Act, the obsolete and antique weapons will be exempted.

As far as the question of cartridges are concerned, if they are not manufactured since the last ten years, it does not mean that one may not possess them.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: I asked a very important point.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: It is a very important point.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: If the ammunition is not available, how can you use the guns?... (व्यवधान)...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जिसका एन्टीक हो गया या आब्सोलीट हो गया या नहीं हो गया—that is what he wanted to know.

श्री जितेन्द्र प्रसाद : जिसका कारतूस नहीं बनता है, उसको आप चला कैसे सकते हैं।

(व्यवधान)

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as antique and obsolete weapons are concerned, they will be outside the purview of the Arms Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member wants to know whether that becomes obsolete or not.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as the obsolete and antique weapons are concerned, they are not defined in the Act. But we can go by the dictionary meaning of the words 'obsolete' and the 'antique'.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: Can you fire an arm without a cartridge?

AN HON. MEMBER: You can find the dictionary meaning.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: The Hon. Minister has made it clear that the prohibited bores are not supplied to the public but in some States, certain categories of people have been supplied with prohibited bores and in the Act, it has not been defined.

I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister would consider to add in the Act the detailed definition of 'prohibited bores'.

What are the categories of public who have received the 'prohibited bores' and with what condition? What is the criterion for those people?

When so many things like chairs and tables are under Antiques Act, why not

fire arms which are museum pieces not included in the Antiques Act?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I have already stated while answering the main questions which are the guns which have listed as prohibited. This is under the executive instructions. This is not in the Act or rules. This was clarified earlier. It has not been totally prohibited to issue such guns also to the individuals but we have only stated that total care will be taken while issuing this type of weapons to the individuals. There may be one or two instances where this has been issued.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: What is the criterion for that? Please give some criterion.

SHRI C.P.N. SINGH: I would like to ask categorically from the Hon. Minister whether he is aware that for 410-bore gun or the 280 Ross Rifle, if there is any manufacture of the ammunition any more?

If the manufacturers are not making the ammunition for those two particular guns and if according to the Indian Arms Act, you can only have the weapon known as antique if you drill a hole in the barrel, will this not be a national loss. Because once this happens, that gun loses its value. What is going to happen is these guns are going to be smuggled out. For the guns in India, we will have to have this hole in the barrel for it to be declared as antiques. Is it not a national loss?

Will the Hon. Minister kindly consider whether, if the bullets are not manufactured, those guns will be permitted as antiques?

SHRI P.C. SETHI: While framing the rules, we will take the suggestion of the Hon. Member, into consideration.

Economic Development of North Eastern Region

*417. SHRI BISHNU PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee for the economic development of North Eastern Region met in New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The important recommendations made to accelerate the pace of development in the north east are laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

RESOLUTION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item No. 1

Development of Rail and road communication in the North—East

Resolution:

- (1) The BG line to Gauhati should be completed by March, 1984. No further slippage in time should be permitted.
- (2) The de-reservation proposals in forest land falling along the six new railway lines have not yet been fully cleared. The Minister of State for Agriculture stated that the case was to be submitted to him within July, 1983, and it would be finalised soon after.

Item No. 1 (b)

Progress of construction of National Highways

- (3) The need for improvement of National Highway 44 (Shillong—Jowai—Agartala) and National Highway 53 (Silchar to Bhadarpur) has been brought to the notice of the Committee during successive