

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) to (c). The matter is at present under the consideration of Government. When decisions are reached, they will be duly announced.

Financial Position of State,

*162. Shri Abdul Gani Dar: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the non-Congress Governments in the States have complained to the Central Governments regarding empty Exchequer in those States; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to look into these complaints, giving details of the steps proposed to be taken?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) No such complaint has been received by the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Drinking Water Supply in Drought-affected Area in Bihar

*163. Shri Yogendra Sharma:
Shri Bhogendra Jha:
Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Government have asked for immediate central assistance for providing drinking water in the drought-affected areas in the State;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance asked for; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-197/67].

Effect of Political Changes on Share Market

*164. Shri R. Barua: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the impact of political changes in India on the share market;

(b) if so, the line of thinking of Government to rectify misgivings in appropriate quarters; and

(c) whether a fresh look on investment potential of the country is envisaged?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) There has been no discernible impact on the share market.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is keeping a continual watch over the trends of the share market and has been taking steps to improve the investment climate.

बरीनी तेल शोधक कारखाना

*165 श्री भोगेन्द्र झा क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बरीनी तेल शोधक कारखाना अक्टूबर-नवम्बर, 1966 में कई दिन तक बन्द रहा था;

(ख) क्या इसका कारण यह था कि तेल जमा करने की क्षमता पूरी थी तथा और अधिक तेल जमा करने के लिये स्थान नहीं था;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उस समय बिहार के गाँवों में तेल की अत्यधिक कमी थी और एक रुपये में भी तेल की एक बोतल मिलनी कठिन थी;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि विदेशी तेल-शोधक कारखाने ने उत्पादन बन्द कर दिया था; और

(क) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार इस बारे में उच्च-स्तरीय जांच करने का है ?

बीजना, वेदोन्निवन और रक्षायन तथा सनाथ कल्याण मंत्री (श्री अशोक मेहता) :

(क) जी नहीं ?

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठना ।

(ग) सरकार को कश्चि परिस्थिति का ज्ञान नहीं है। वास्तव में राज्य को इन महीनों में पिछली अवधि के मुकाबले में मिटटी के तेल की सलाई अच्छी रही।

(घ) जी नहीं।

(ङ) उपर्युक्त उत्तर को दृष्टि में रखते हुए जांच की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

Marriageable Age

*166. Shrimati Sushila Kohatgi: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal under consideration to raise the age of consent and marriage for girls in the near future to control population growth more effectively?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar): Yes, Sir

Haldia Refinery

*167. Shri C. C. Desai:
Shri R. Barua:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with some foreign collaborators to set up the Haldia Refinery; and

(b) if so, the present position regarding the setting up of this Refinery?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Negotiations with foreign collaborators are still in progress.

Legalisation of Abortion

*168. Shri S. Supakar: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to legalise abortion to prevent indiscriminate growth of population in the country; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India appointed a Committee to study the question of legalisation of abortion. A note is placed on the Table of Sabha containing the broad recommendations of the Committee. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-158/67]. The report of the Committee is under consideration.

Manufacture of Loop

175. Shri Baburao Patel:

Shri Surendra Kumar Tapariah:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the types of contraceptives manufactured in India together with their particulars and the names of the factories manufacturing them;

(b) the amount invested in building these factories together with their recurring annual expenses;

(c) the annual production of each type of contraceptive,

(d) the cost of production of each contraceptive and the selling price fixed by Government;

(e) arrangements made for selling or distributing these contraceptives; and

(f) the other active and practical steps, besides the provision to use contraceptives, Government propose to take for the control of population?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar):

(a) The types of contraceptives manufactured in India together with