

(c) The total loss reported in respect of incidents at S. Nos. 1 to 4 is around Rs. 535.45 lakhs. The incident at S. No. 5 was of a minor nature.

(d) To prevent recurrence of such fire incidents, steps have been taken by the Government through its Oil Industry Safety Directorate, to advise all oil companies to analyse the cause of each major fire, to ensure further strengthening of the Inspection Maintenance and Operating procedures, and to conduct periodically, special safety Audits by multi-disciplinary teams for necessary corrective measures wherever required.

#### **Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in Bihar**

3182. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research Team of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has explored the potentiality of oil and gas reserves in many districts of Bihar;

(b) whether only five oil wells have been dug in the Ganga basin of Bihar where the indications of oil and gas reserves have been found;

(c) if so, whether the digging work at Kadmaha (Bihar) has been stopped and the only rig machine supplied to Bihar has been transferred to Assam; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). Six wells namely

Ganauli-1, Raxaul-1, Kadmaha-1, Gandak-1 in East and West Champaran, Madhubani-1 in Darbhanga and Purnea-1 in Purnea district have been drilled in Bihar. Besides extensive geological surveys and other studies were also carried out in various parts of Bihar. So far no hydrocarbons have been discovered in the State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The well at Kadmaha proved to be dry. The rig has been shifted for the present since there are no suitable identified locations available immediately.

#### **Information and Mass Education Cells in Bihar**

3183. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any information and mass education cells are functioning in Bihar to educate the people and create awareness among the people of weaker sections; and

(b) if so, the details of the activities of the cells in Bihar during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from Ministry of Education and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Contract Labour System**

3184. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: