

tented accommodation, free electricity, etc. There is no plan now to draw up any scheme for improving the condition of shot hole drilling employees only.

As regards the workers engaged by the contractors or cooperative societies, who are awarded job contracts for shot hole drilling, the responsibility of providing wages and other facilities is that of the contractor or cooperative society. ONGC ensures that such wages are paid in accordance with the statutory provisions.

D.A. to Employees of Public Sector Undertakings

1147. SHRI JANARDHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under the consideration of Government to give parity in Dearness Allowance to the employees working in public sector undertakings with the Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has taken a policy decision to extend Industrial Dearness Allowance formula to the employees of public sector undertakings, under which Dearness Allowance to all employees increases at a uniform rate per point rise in All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers.

[English]

Licences for Industrial Alcohol

1148. SHRI C. SIRNIVASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken over the powers to issue licences for starting industries with molasses as raw material from State Governments;

(b) the policy of Government for issuing licences for making industrial alcohol and rectified spirit from molasses;

(c) whether there is a great demand for molasses based industries in the country;

(d) how many applications have been received from Tamil Nadu for such licences; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) These powers already vest with the Central Government.

(b) Industrial approvals are granted keeping in view the demand and supply position, availability of molasses in the concerned State and other relevant factors.

(c) Sufficiently large capacities for molasses based industries have been approved keeping in view the demand position.

(d) and (e). During the years 1987 to 1989, 18 applications for grant of letters of intent for the manufacture of Industrial Alcohol/Rectified Spirit in the State of Tamil Nadu were received. Out of these, 11 applications have been approved and letters of intent granted to the concerned applicants. Rest of the 7 applications have been rejected.

Losses in State Electricity Boards

1149. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state: