

recoverable reserves of 70—100 million tonnes. The annual production of crude oil will increase from 4.52 million tonnes in 1974-75 to 10.95 million tonnes in 1978-79. Exploration work will be intensified in Punjab Basin, Ganga Valley, West Bengal Tripura, etc. as also in the offshore areas.

Enquiry against IJMA and Hastings Mills Ltd., Calcutta by MRTP Commission

199. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN. Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has instituted an enquiry against IJMA and Hastings Mills Ltd, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the findings of the enquiry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The inquiry has been instituted by the Commission under section 10(a) (iv) read with Section 37 of the MRTP Act, 1969 for inquiring into a restrictive trade practice alleged to be indulged in by the IJMA and Hastings Mills Limited, Calcutta, in pursuance of a scheme formulated by the former and acted upon by member Jute Mills. The scheme provides, *inter-alia*, for—

(i) reducing the production of jute goods by 15 per cent of the installed spinning frames; and

(ii) regulating and controlling the production of jute goods in various other forms as laid down in the scheme

The enquiry before the Commission is at the pleadings' stage.

Amendment of Child Marriage Restraint Act

200. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD): (a) and (b) Certain proposals for amending the Child Marriage Restraint Act such as raising the minimum age for marriage in the case of boys and girls and enhancing the penalties for offences under the Act are under examination of the Government.

Registration of Multinational Companies

201 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: how many proposals for registration of multinational companies were finalised during 1974-75 and 1975-76 upto December, 1975?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA) During the financial year 1974-75 six multinational companies were reported to have established places of business (i.e., branches) in India. One of these branches has since ceased operating in India. During 1975-76 (i.e., from 1-4-1975 to 31-12-1975) two more multinational companies established places of business in India. As required under Section 592 of the Companies Act, these companies have delivered the required documents to the Registrar of Companies for registration.