

able to expect that oil reserves exist in areas to the East and South West of Bombay High.

Use of Hindi in Railways in Hindi speaking States

53. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: whether any scheme for encouraging use of Hindi in official communication such as notices, communiques and orders in Hindi Speaking States is under consideration of the Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): In accordance with the Section 3(3) of the Official Language (Amendment) Act, 1967, use of Hindi in addition to English in official documents such as notices, communiques, orders etc. is obligatory.

In order to encourage the staff to do their work in Hindi, a number of schemes have been introduced by the Ministry of Railways. They are "Hindi Essay and Elocution Competitions", "Hindi Noting and Drafting Competitions", "Cash Awards Scheme", "Inter-Railway Raj Bhasha Shield", and "Inter Divisional Raj Bhasha Shield". The "Hindi Essay and Elocution Competition" and "Hindi Noting and Drafting Competitions" are organised at Divisional as well as All India levels and winners are awarded first, second and third prizes of; Rs. 200, Rs. 150 and Rs. 100 respectively. The other competitors are given merit certificates. Besides, a scheme of granting cash awards to staff and officers doing maximum work through Hindi has also been introduced in railway offices located in Hindi speaking areas.

Lowering of voting age

54. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have obtained the views of State Governments regarding lowering of voting age;

(b) if so, the salient features of the response from each State; and

(c) whether Government have taken a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMAD): (a) The view of a majority of the State Governments/and Union Territory Administrations in the matter have been received

(b) A statement containing the gist of replies received from the State Governments and Union territory Administrations is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Place in Library. See No. LT 10998/76].

(c) No, Sir.

Standard contents of Railway Bed-rolls

55. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standard contents of the Railway bed-rolls differ from one zonal railway to other zonal railway;

(b) whether different trains are having different contents of bed-rolls; and

(c) if so, whether the charges are also different?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI