

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Ministry of Labour is not aware of any study conducted so far to find out the effect of multinational companies on the employment situation in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Organised Sector employment in the country is around 8 to 9 % of the total employment and out of this only about one-third is in the private sector. Multinational companies which operate primarily in the Organised sector may not have any substantial contribution to the overall employment situation.

(d) The strategy of the Ninth plan envisages adoption of technologies which are labour intensive, cost effective, easily adaptable in regions characterised by high rate of unemployment and under employment, and result in improvement in the quality of employment with special thrust on productivity.

Violation of Labour Laws in Industries

2677. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries found violating of labour laws during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) if so, the action taken against those industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Plight of Blind Women

2678. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of the World Committee on Status of Blind women was held in New Delhi during November, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the recommendations made by the Committee;

(d) the Committee had expressed that visually handicapped women face greater discrimination as compared to men;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) the specific plans proposed to ameliorate the plight of such women, particularly in rural areas; and

(g) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (g) Required information is being collected from the concerned Ministries/Depts.

Women Labourers

2679. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women labourers in the country particularly in Maharashtra, as on date;

(b) the number of women labourers employed in hazardous industries particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether continuous work in such hazardous industries is likely to damage their reproduction power; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ban to employ women labourers in hazardous industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) According to 1991 census, the total female work force in the country, including women labourers, is 8,97,67,563. The number of such workers in Maharashtra is 1,26,17,454.

(c) and (d) There are special protective provisions, prohibiting/regulating the working conditions of women workers in hazardous industries/areas in various statutes. This includes the Factories Act, 1948 and Model Rules framed thereunder which prohibit employment of women workers in dangerous processes/operations and the Mines Act, 1952, which prohibits employment of women workers below ground. No specific study has been conducted to assess whether female workers are losing their reproductive power as a result of being employed in hazardous industries.

[Translation]

Ban on Lotteries

2680. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have discussed with Chief Ministers of various States to impose ban on lotteries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which a meeting in this regard is likely to be convened;

(d) whether the Government proposed to introduce a Bill to ban all type of lotteries in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) The matter was placed before the Conference of Chief Ministers held on the 27th November, 1998. Though the Chief Ministers from the North-Eastern States expressed concern about the adverse impact that the ban would have on their revenues, the general consensus was that lotteries should be statutorily banned. Further necessary action in the matter is being taken.

Scrap Subsidy on Fertilizers

2681. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to scrap subsidy on fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

[English]

Supply of Damaged Wheat to PDS

2682. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been supplying its damaged wheat stock to the Public Distribution System;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of damaged wheat supplied to Fair Price Shops so far;

(d) the number of complaints received from various States during 1997-98; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No Sir, only good quality wheat, free from insect infestation and strictly conforming to PFA standards is supplied by FCI under PDS.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No specific complaint has been received from any State during 1997-98 in this regard.

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the quality of foodgrains including wheat distributed under PDS.

i. The representatives of the State Governments are allowed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting stocks from the godowns for distribution under PDS/TPDS.

ii. Type, sealed samples of foodgrains from the issuing lots are displayed at fair price shops for the benefit of consumers.

iii. Surprise checks by the Government agencies are carried out at fair price shops to check the quality of foodgrains.

Oil Exploration Contract Between India and China

2683. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have decided to establish a long-term partnership to tap oil and gas in the rich resources region;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the main features of the agreement; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) A memorandum of Understanding was signed on 14.10.97 between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and China National Oil & Gas Exploration & Development Corporation (CNODC) to jointly review the petroleum opportunities in upstream and downstream sectors.

As a follow up, in petroleum exploration in China, an