

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fully implement the orders of the commission for redressal of excesses committed on caste basis to the SC/STs employees in public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far no such specific case has been brought to the notice of the Government by the Commission.

(c) National Commission for SCs/STs do not issue order but make their recommendations to the Govt. through annual report or a special report, if any. Their Report alongwith Action Taken Memorandum is laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament as per Article 338 of the Constitution.

(d) All necessary steps are taken to ensure that appropriate action is taken by the concerned organisation in such cases as are recommended by the National Commission for SCs/STs. Thereafter, the Report containing recommendations of this commission alongwith Action Taken Memorandum is laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament.

[English]

Widow Marriage

3763 SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration to encourage widow marriage by enacting a law;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed law;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in order to encourage re-marriage or widow marriages including of divorcees the expenses are likely to be borne by Central/State Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount paid at present to the widows marriage as a token of encouragement by Central/State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Foreign Visits of ONGC's Officials

3764. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign visits made by the officials of Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) during the last two years; and

(b) the purposes of their visits and the amount of expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) A total of 853 foreign visits have been made by employees of ONGC during the last two years.

(b) These visits were undertaken for attending International Seminars/Conferences, Training Programmes, Work Association, attending Business meetings connected with the activities of ONGC, for evaluation of data/equipment, for participation in International sports events, for participation in exhibitions/expositions connected with oil industry and for fulfilling contractual obligations connected with operation of ONGC abroad. The expenditure incurred on account of T.A. on these visits has been Rs. 26.36 Crores.

[Translation]

Appointment of Governors

3765. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Governors in various States whose tenure has been over; and

(b) the time by which new Governors in vacant places are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Shri Mata Prasad, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and Dr. A.R. Kidwai, Governor of West Bengal have completed five years in office, which is the normal term of office of a Governor. However, they continue to be in office by virtue of the provisions of article 156(3) of the Constitution of India. It may also be mentioned that consequent upon the death of Shri

Darbara Singh, Shri Justice Navaran Lal Tibrewal has been discharging the functions of the Governor of Rajasthan since May, 1998. The question of making regular appointments of Governors is receiving attention.

[English]

Purchase of Vehicle Tracking System

3766. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to purchase Vehicle Tracking System for Delhi Police for efficient policing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the equipment; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be installed by Delhi Police?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

ONGC's Projects

3767. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projects of Oil and Natural Gas Commission to boost oil production in Gujarat have got bogged down;

(b) if so, the details of projects to be set up along with their costs; and

(c) the total amount proposed to be invested by ONGC in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Two projects of ONGC for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) at Balol and Santhal field in Gujarat have suffered some delay due to non-availability of land for modification works. The details of the project are as under:—

Name of the project	Total cost (Rs./Cr.)	Anticipated Completion date
1. Commercialization of <i>In-situ</i> combustion South Balol	118.49	March '98 (without modification) March '99 (with modification)
2. Commercialization of <i>In-situ</i> combustion North Santhal	278.37	Jan., '99 (without modification) May '99 (with modification)

[Translation]

Lithotripsy in Government Hospitals

3768. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR BIJOY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the best method to remove stone from kidney without pain is lithotripsy;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce this new technique in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and other Government hospitals;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Lithotripsy is one of the techniques by which a kidney stone can be removed without pain. The use of this technique depends on various factors and hence it does not have universal application in treating kidney stone cases.

(b) No decision has been taken in this regard.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.