

Tiruchi Railway Junction and one in the Alleppey Express at the Tiruchur Railway Station. In these incidents nine persons were killed while sixty persons sustained severe injuries.

(c) and (d) A request was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for ordering a CBI probe into these incidents. The views of the CBI in this regard have been communicated to the State Government. The response of the State Government is awaited.

Ban on Child Labour in Carpet Industry

1057. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to ban child labour in the carpet industry;

(b) if so, the date by which the child labour is likely to be banned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) Employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations (including the carpet industry), is already prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1997

1058. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance issued on October 1, 1997, has since been lapsed;

(b) if so, the regulations are in force for regulating or controlling the issue and sale of lotteries; and

(c) the reasons for not bringing a legislation before the Parliament to regulate rather ban Central and State Government lotteries as per entry 40 of the Union List in Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) In order to give continued effect to the provisions of the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1997 promulgated on the 1st day of October, 1997, the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance 1997 was promulgated on the 30th day of December, 1997. As the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance, 1997, was going to lapse on the 5th day of May, 1998, the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998 was promulgated on the 23rd day of April, 1998.

In order to replace the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998 by an Act, the Lotteries (Regulation) Bill,

1998 has since been introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 27th day of May, 1998.

Reservation of STs Candidates

1059. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Delhi has sought the permission of Ministry of Home Affairs to do away with 7.5 per cent reservation for scheduled tribes candidates in recruitment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the NCT of Delhi, and shall be laid down on the Table of the House.

Census on Enclaves

1060. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which the census of Indian Citizens in 119 exchangeable enclaves of India in Bangladesh was made last, Enclave-wise;

(b) whether that was the first and the last census of those Indian Enclaves; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not conducting the census of those enclaves; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not conducting the census of those enclaves by the Government since then ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The Census of Indian Citizens in 119 exchangeable enclaves of Indian in Bangladesh was conducted at the 1951 Census.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has no administrative control or access to the Enclaves lying within Bangladesh and hence it has not been possible to conduct any Census after 1951.

Oil and Gas Exploration

1061. COL. SONA- RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of Oil and Gas have been found in Rajasthan during exploration by Oil India Ltd. and Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have offered some blocks/areas for exploration/development under joint venture;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the parties to whom the offer has been extended and the terms and conditions agree to;

(e) the names of the companies whose proposals for pre-exploration survey for Mineral Oil and Natural Gas are pending with the Government; and

(f) if so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) ONGC has found substantial quantity of gas in six prospects namely Manhera Tibba, Ghotaru, Khartar, Bakhri Tibba, Bankia and Sadewala structures. Similarly, OIL has discovered commercial quantity of gas in three prospects namely Dandewala, Tanot & Bagitibba and observed minor indications of presence of gas in other prospects namely Ramgarh, Jalalwala and Gamnewala in Jaisalmer Basin. OIL have also established presence of heavy oil/Bitumen in Bikaner-Nagpur basin.

(c) and (d) Production Sharing contracts have already been signed for the block RJ-ON-90/1 between Government of India, ONGC and Shell India Production Development B.V., and for blocks RJ-ON-90/4 and RJ-ON-90/5 between Government of India, OIL and Essar Oil Ltd. Salient terms and conditions of the contracts are as under :-

The contracts of exploration blocks are Production Sharing Contracts with a contract period in case of crude oil and associated gas, of upto 25 years. Companies are exempted from payment of bonuses and statutory levies. The Government of India would have the first right of refusal in respect of the oil produced under these contracts, with companies being paid for their share of oil at international prices. Provision for participation by ONGC/OIL in the venture at the exploration and/or the development stage has been made and ONGC/OIL can take a participating interest of 30% to 40% in the venture. Provisions have also been made for the development of commercially exploitable natural gas resources.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal pending with the Government.

Fire in Vishakhapatnam Refinery

1062. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a devastating fire broke out in the refinery of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., situated at Visakhapatnam in September, 1997;

(b) if so, the main causes of the fire;

(c) the number of persons killed/injured therein;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty;

(f) the estimated loss suffered by the refinery as a result thereof;

(g) the effective steps taken by the Government to stop such incidents in future; and

(h) the amount of compensation and other facilities provided so far to the affected families ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (h) A major fire accident occurred in HPCL, Vizag Refinery/Marketing terminal on 14th September, 1997 resulting in the death of 60 persons, including 14 of HPCL, injuries to 10 besides financial loss of about Rs. 80 crores.

2. The ex-gratia payment has been made by the HPCL, in coordination with District Administration as under :

(i) Ex-gratia payment per deceased :	Rs. 2 lakhs
(ii) Immediate expenses per deceased :	Rs. 10,000/-
(iii) Injured :	Rs. 10,000/-
(iv) Seriously injured :	Rs. 25,000/-

The State Government also made ex-gratia payment of Rs. 50,000/- to the dependents of the deceased. The above payments were in addition to the other payments admissible under the relevant Act and the rules of the Corporation.