

perspective acreage offered from time to time by other Governments for oil exploration. Participation by ONGC in such ventures is decided keeping in view the following objectives.

- (i) Success in our Oil Exploration activities in other countries will entitle up to a share of oil which is produced. To the extent to which we can secure oil from these countries as our share of the production we can cut down on the imports of crude oil.
- (ii) The international exposure to different sedimentary basins will help in building up our technical capabilities in this sector.
- (iii) This will also help ONGC in becoming more competitive.

(c) and (d). At present Government has under its consideration, a production sharing contract negotiated between Hydrocarbons India Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC, and Petro-Vietnam, the national oil company of Vietnam, for Government's approval.

ONGC is also examining a proposal for oil exploration in Tanzania.

#### **Release of Carbon Feed Stock to Small Scale Units**

**\*827. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased state :

(a) whether the public sector Oil Corporations are manufacturing carbon feed stock which is being used only by large scale units manufacturing carbon black in bulk quantity; and

(b) whether Government propose to release this feed stock to the small scale units manufacturing products other than carbon black as a substitute of imported raw material ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) :** (a) and (b). Presently Carbon Black Feed Stock is being utilised by the units manufacturing Carbon Black. While there

is no specific proposal by the small scale units manufacturing products other than Carbon Black for this material there should be no difficulty in meeting their demand out of the indigenous production.

#### **Commemorative Stamp in Honour of Kashmir Poet**

**\*828. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to issue a commemorative stamp in honour of late Gulam Ahmad Mahjoor, a great poet of Kashmir who promoted Hindu-Muslim unity during the freedom movement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :** (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Losses suffered by Cement Corporation of India**

**\*829. SHRI KAMAL NATH :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level committee headed by the Chairman and Director General of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials has advised Government to reschedule the loan given to the Cement Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the recommendations made by the Committee and the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) the losses suffered by the Cement Corporation of India during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the gap between expenditure and realisation ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations, which are under examination of the Government, include *inter alia* deferment of re-payment of loans and conversion of loans to equity so as to bring the debt equity ratio to 1:1.