

(b) what are the reasons for such extremely low production/recovery by India; and

(c) what specific steps are being taken to improve this position?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) While the Government is not aware of the figures given in the publication mentioned in the Question the production percentage of the balance recoverable reserves in respect of ONGC & OIL for the year 1989-90 is 4.6 per cent & 4.8 per cent respectively.

(b) Considering the extent of crude oil occurrences, establishment of reserves and percentage of reserves which are recoverable, production/recovery in India is not extremely low.

(c) Does not arise.

Drop-out of Students from Schools in the Rural Areas

1219. SHRI JAGDISH JANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale drop-out of students from schools in the rural areas, particularly those belonging to Scheduled/Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken to check the drop-out; and

(d) what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RHAGEY GIRARDHAN): (a) Yes Sir

(b) Some of the reasons for children dropping out of school are;

(i) Children are required to work to supplement the family income or otherwise assist their parents;

(*ii) Girls have to attend to household chores including fetching water and looking after the siblings;

(iii) Schools have inadequate facilities and insufficient instructional material;

(iv) Curriculum is perceived as not being related to local needs, especially where the language of the instructional material is unfamiliar to children speaking in dialects;

(v) Reluctance of parents to send girls to school;

(c) Some of the main steps being taken are: -

(i) Provision of Central Assistances for improvement of facilities in primary schools under the scheme of Operation Blackboard;

(ii) Programmes of part-time Non-Formal Education to school drop-outs, girls, working children who cannot attend whole day schools;

(iii) Provision of Central Assistance for establishment of District Institutes of Education and Training for improving teacher effectiveness;

(iv) The provision of primary schools within 1 km. walking distance from all habitations with a population of 200. In the case of SC/ST habitations, the norm is relaxed to include habitations with population of 200,

(v) Provision of incentives to socio-economically backward children for free uniform, free text books, attendance scholarship for girls and provision of mid-day meals, -

(d) As a result of these measures the drop-out rate is gradually declining.