

(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 BHAGEY GIBARDHAN): (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 Assistance 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