

(c) and (d) In respect of 11 CPSEs under the administrative control of Department of Heavy Industry total amount outstanding as on 30.11.2009 for payment to employees is Rs. 129.58 crore. Department of Heavy Industry has been giving budgetary support in the form of loan to CPSEs under its control for payment of salary/wages and statutory dues. The salary/wages and statutory dues to such CPSEs have been paid upto June, 2009.

Performance of PRIs

2877. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has taken note of the fact that Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country are functioning far from satisfactory; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) Under Article 243(G) of the Constitution, State Legislatures are to endow the Panchayats with powers and authority to Plan, implement and monitor schemes for economic development and social justice. The devolution of powers to the Panchayats varies across States as also the extent of support in terms of funds, infrastructure and manpower. Under the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS), State Governments are incentivized to devolve power to the Panchayats. In addition the Ministry of Panchayati Raj supports capacity building of Panchayat representatives and functionaries under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana, Backward Regions Grant Fund and Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also issued detailed guidelines on the devolution of funds, functions and functionaries, Panchayat finance, manpower for Panchayats, decentralized integrated planning, maintenance of Panchayat accounts and guidelines for effective functioning of the Gram Sabha with a view to strengthening the functioning of the Panchayats.

Development of powers to Panchayats

2878. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to amend the Constitution for granting 50 per cent reservation to women in Panchayat bodies;

(b) if so, date by which the Bill is likely to get introduced;

(c) what are the essential features of the proposed Bill;

(d) whether Government proposes to amend the Constitution to make it mandatory to devolve certain powers to Panchayats; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to amend Article 243 D of the Constitution for granting 50% reservation to women in seats and offices of Chairpersons in Panchayats at each level.

(b) The Constitution (One Hundred and Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2009 was introduced in Parliament on 26th November, 2009.

(c) The Bill proposes to raise the reservation for women from the present one-third to 50% of the total number of seats and offices of Chairpersons at each level. The reservation of 50% for women is also proposed in the total number of seats and offices of Chairpersons reserved in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(d) and (e) Article 243G of the Constitution provides that the State legislatures may take steps to endow the Panchayats with powers to plan, implement and monitor schemes for economic development and social justice. States are to make necessary provision in their respective legislation to devolve powers to the Panchayats.

Dividend of ONGC

||2879. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that dividend of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in first quarter of financial year 2009-10 has been less in comparison to the first quarter of financial year 2008-09;

(b) if so, the quantum of decrease in the dividend;

(c) whether reasons of this fall in dividend earned have been enquired about; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and percentage of loss of the dividend due to each such reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) ONGC is yet to declare its dividend relating to the financial year 2009-10. During the year 2008-09, ONGC had declared a total dividend of Rs.6844.39 crore out of which the Government share was Rs.5074.43 crore.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Extraction of gas in Krishna-Godavari basin

2880. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dispute between Reliance Industries Ltd. and Reliance Natural Resources Ltd. is creating problems in the extraction of gas in Krishna-Godavari basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the role of Government in this dispute?

||Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.