

Supreme Court bench in the South

*211. SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to establish a Bench of the Supreme Court in the South; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that "the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time appoint." No proposal in this connection has been received from the Chief Justice of India.

212. [Transferred to the 25th March, 1983].

Re-employment of Surplus Employees of Dandakaranya Development Authority

*213. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees of the Dandakaranya Development Authority have now become surplus;

(b) whether these employees will be retrenched or be re-employed elsewhere with protection of their previous service;

(c) whether Government are also considering any proposal for development of the tribals residing in this area;

(d) whether a study has been made in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) 128 employees have been declared surplus so far. 70 more are being declared surplus shortly.

(b) The employees who would opt for absorption into State services and would be acceptable to the State Government would be transferred to the State Government along with the assets and institutions. The State Governments are finalising the terms and conditions for their absorption.

The remaining employees would be sponsored to the Central (Surplus Staff) Cell of the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Ministry of Home Affairs for re-deployment elsewhere under the Rules. All the 128 employees declared surplus so far, have been given alternative posts.

(c) As per arrangement with the State Governments the Dandakaranya Project release 25 per cent of land reclaimed by them to the concerned State Government for resettlement of landless tribal families and also provide financial assistance for the purpose. The actual work of tribal settlement is done by the State Governments. Further, all area developmental activities of the Dandakaranya Project, viz. irrigation schemes, communication, educational and medical facilities etc. benefit local tribals as much as displaced persons settlers. Some roads, tanks etc. have also been constructed particularly for tribals.

(d) and (e) The Dandakaranya Development Authority constituted a Tribal Welfare Committee in April, 1979 to study tribal welfare programme and suggest ways and means for more active participation of the authority in the work. The Committee suggested that the two State Governments should evaluate tribal work done so far with the financial assistance provided by the Authority. While the Government of Orissa have submitted their report, the report of the Madhya Pradesh Government is awaited. The study, therefore, has not been completed.

Petrol Consumption

*214. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of consumption of petrol in public and private sectors,