

under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and an approved mining plan, including mine closure plan for systematic rehabilitation and resettlement of mines. Some instances of illegal mines employing child labour have come to the notice of the Government. Illegal mining is done manually with damage to the sub-surface environment.

(c) States being the owners of minerals are obligated to prevent illegal mining. Further, the Central Government has empowered the State Governments to frame Rules for prevention of illegal mining, storage and transportation of illegally mined minerals, regular monitoring by the Government on a quarterly basis and regular inspection of mines under the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 and Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

Oversight Committee for reservation

*212. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESORUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Oversight Committee was constituted to go into the question of reservation for Other Backward Classes in the educational institutions without disturbing the existing opportunities available for non-reserved category (general category) of students;

(b) if so, the percise terms of reference of the Committee; and

(c) whether the question of identification of persons/candidates falling in creamy layer groups has been referred to the Committee; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) An Oversight Committee has been constituted to draw up a time-bound road map for implementing reservation in admission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes/Other Backward Classes in educational institutions under the purview of the Central Government from the academic session commencing in 2007.

The Committee is expected to look into the following aspects:

- (i) Implementation of 27% reservation for the OBCs in institutes of higher learning; and
 - (ii) Assessment of additional infrastructure and other requirements for increasing the overall availability of seats to a level so that the present level of seats available to the general category students does not decline.
- (c) No, Sir.

Meeting requirements of power

†*213. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to meet the requirement of power consumption and to provide power at cheaper rate to farmers;

(b) whether any action plan has been formulated by Government regarding construction of new power projects to increase the power production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The steps taken to augment the supply of power to meet the power requirement *inter-alia*, include:

Adequate capacity addition.

Early stabilization of newly commissioned units.

Maximization of generation through better performance in Plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal power stations.

Power stations with low PLF have been identified and are linked with better performing stations under the scheme "Partnership for Excellence" for adopting better operational practices.

Enhancement of Inter-State and Inter-regional transfer of power by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links eventually leading to formation of National Grid.

Promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.