

(b) Out of 69 Research Management Scientific posts under the Council, 12 posts are lying vacant at present. Against this, the recommendations of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board have been received for 5 posts and these are under consideration. The recommendations of the Board for the remaining 7 posts are awaited.

Interim arrangements for looking after the work of these posts have been made wherever found necessary.

Exploratory drilling in Southern region

982. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploratory drilling in North Tapti, Gulf of Cambay, Palk Bay, Andhra Offshore, Kasargod Offshore and Andaman Offshore have been carried out; and

(b) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: (a) Exploratory drilling had been carried out by the ONGC in the Gulf of Cambay and the Palk Bay. They had also taken up drilling in North Tapti but this had to be temporarily given up due to encountering of high pressure gas which threatened the safety of the rig.

Drilling is currently in progress in the Andhra Offshore and Andaman Offshore by the ONGC. Drilling has not yet been done in the Kasargod Offshore.

(b) Gas has been found in the Gulf of Cambay in two structures viz., South Tapti and Mid Tapti. The well drilled in the Palk Bay was found dry.

Complaints from the residents of Bania Para, Aligarh regarding irregularities in the register of mutation of houses

983. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Local Self Government and Municipal Board, U.P. have received complaints from Members of Parliament about the irregularities being committed in the Register of Mutation of Houses maintained in the House Tax Department by the Municipal Board, Aligarh;

(b) if so, what is the number of complaints received so far in the Municipal Board, Aligarh and in the Local Self Government Department, U.P. in this regard and what action Government have taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that notices for recovery of house tax are being issued to those persons who are actually not the owners of houses in that locality;

(d) if so, what is the number of such cases and what steps Government have taken to trace the real owners of those houses; and

(e) what are the reasons for delay in taking action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Sanitation drive in villages

984. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to start massive sanitation drive in villages;

(b) if so, by when; and

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