

The issues arising out of the May 1974 Strike and other questions mentioned in the charter are under consideration.

Oil exploration in Mahanadi delta

6. SHRI SITARAM KESRI;
SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN;
SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN
SINGH;
SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 605 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August, 1976 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to grant permission to the Oil India Ltd., for oil and gas exploration in Mahanadi Delta and adjacent on-shore and off-shore areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil India Limited have been informed that the Government have no objection to the grant of Petroleum Exploration Licence covering an area of 31,000 Square Kilometers including 12,000 Square Kilometers off-shore in Mahanadi Delta area. O.I.L. have since submitted an application for grant of a Petroleum Exploration Licence for an area of 12,000 Sq. Kilometers off-shore.

Reorganisation of the Election Committee

7. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to change the composition of the Election Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under Government's consideration at present to change the composition of the Election Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

Reconstitution of the Law Commission

8. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reconstitute the Law Commission; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NARSINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Eighth Law Commission has been reconstituted for a period of three years from 1st September, 1977 to 31st August, 1980, with the following terms of reference:—

(1) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times, and in particular, to secure—

(i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair;

(ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; and

- (iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.
- (2) To examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislation as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble to the Constitution.
- (3) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
- (4) To consider and to convey to the Government its views on any other subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be referred to it.

It has been further decided that the Commission will consist of only four Members including the Chairman and the Member-Secretary. The Chairman and Members may be either a serving judge or retired judge of either the Supreme Court or a High Court or a Legal Expert, a Jurist or a Professor of Law in a University in India. The Member-Secretary would be a person belonging to Grade I of the Central Legal Service.

The Member-Secretary has been appointed. The Chairman and two other Members of the Commission will be appointed soon.

Ex-gratia payment to Railway Workers

9. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have taken any decision regarding the grant of *ex-gratia* payment to Railway employees; and

(b) if so, what are the details and financial implication thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Porters and Vendors in the country

10. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of porters and vendors on the Railways who are not in direct employment of the Railway Administration but work on licence and commission basis;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a committee to go into the demands and working conditions of these porters and vendors; and

(c) if so, by when the committee is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) There are 38,138 licensed porters and 4,015 commission vendors on the Indian Railways.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Nangal Dam-Talwara Rail Track

11. SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress so far made with regard to the laying of rail track from Nangal Dam to Talwara and the reasons for the slow progress of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): Final Location