

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): Indications of hydrocarbons have been noticed in Well No. 1 at Karaikkal, but it is too early to make any specific statement.

LEVY OF CAPITATION FEES IN PRIVATE TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

106. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state whether the Central Government have written to some State Governments regarding levy of capitation fees in certain private technical institutions?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): Yes, Sir.

FUNDS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE FOURTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

107. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state the amount of funds earmarked for scientific research in the Fourth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI-MATI SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN): Funds for Scientific Research in the Fourth Five Year Plan have not been finalised so far.

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA

108. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the results of the rapid increase in the number of Universities in the country;

(b) if so, what are the results of such assessment; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this increase has seriously lowered the standard of teaching in the Universities?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) to (c) A Committee has been appointed by the University Grants Commission to examine the question whether academic standards have deteriorated in the Indian Universities and to suggest steps that may be taken to raise the standards. The Committee is expected, *inter alia*, to look into the general question of standards *vis-a-vis* the increase in the number of universities in the country. The report of the Committee is awaited.

CREATION OF POST IN THE CENTRAL FUEL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

109. SHRI P. N. KATHJU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a post of Administrative Officer in the scale of pay of a Deputy Secretary was created in the Central Fuel Research Institute;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the post was transferred to the Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad in order to promote the Administrative Officer there;

(c) whether it is also a fact that shortly after, the post along with the person was transferred to the Indian Institute of Biochemistry and Experimental Medicine, Calcutta; and

(d) if so, under what rules and for what purposes these transfers have been made?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) Yes, Sir. The creation of the post was approved for a period of two years on temporary basis and was to take effect from the date of its being filled up. The post was, however, not actually filled up.

(b) The post originally contemplated for the Central Fuel Research Institute, Jealgora was subsequently