

(e) the details of action taken so far, by Government thereon; and

(f) by when the Bill is likely to be implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Consultation Paper, including the Bill titled “Prohibition of Unlawful Assembly (Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances) Bill, 2011” is available on the website of the Law Commission of India (<http://lawcomissionofindia.nic.in>). After the Law Commission has submitted its report on the subject, the Government will consider the same.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

#### **Exploration and mining activities**

\*628. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has notified the Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, as an Adminstrating Authority for grant of mineral concessions and regulation of exploration and mining activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of mineral bearing blocks notified in off-shore areas in various States for grant of exploration licences; and

(d) the details of applications received for such blocks and the number of exploration licences issued, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINE (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Vide notification number SO 339(E) dated 11.2.2010, Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines has been notified as an Administering Authority for grant of mineral concessions and regulation of exploration and mining activities in offshore areas.

(c) and (d) A total of 63 mineral bearing blocks have been notified vide notification dated 07.06.2010 in the offshore areas, out of which 37 blocks were falling under Arabian Sea and 26 blocks in Bay of Bengal. Out of a total of 377 applications received against the said notification from 53 applicants, orders for grant of exploration licences were issued to 16 applicants for 62 blocks on

05.04.2011. However, till date no exploration licence has been executed as the matter is subjudice in High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Bombay (Nagpur bench).

### **Parliament news in regional languages**

\*629. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliament news like Sansad Samachar are not telecast in regional languages during the Parliament sessions; and

(b) whether Government would consider to allot 15 minutes every day to Parliament news in all regional languages during Parliament sessions, so as to reach the rural poor who do not know English or Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Prasara Bharati has informed that the news for Parliament like 'Sansad Samachar' is not telecast in regional languages at the time of Parliament session. However, the News bulletins originating in regional languages provide adequate coverage to Parliament related information during the session. In the regional news bulletins of Doordarshan's regional language channels, substantial portion of news is dedicated to the events and happenings in Parliament during the session.

### **Stock of foodgrains**

\*630. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the current stock of foodgrains across the country in the Central pool;

(b) the expected procurement during the coming season; and

(c) what arrangements have been made/contemplated by Government/FCI for storage of these foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The stock position of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 1.5.2012 was 711.17 lakh tons comprising 329.23 lakh tons of rice and 381.94 lakh tons of wheat.

As per current estimate of wheat procurement during the current Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2012-13, is likely to be 318 lakh tons. The estimated rice procurement during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2011-12 is likely to be 353.15 lakh tons.