Petroleum reserves in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

3629. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new reserves of petroleum have been found in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the last four years;

(b) if so, the estimated potential of the said reserves;

(c) whether any new petroleum exploration work is going on in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Under National Seismic Programme, about 2,400 Line Kilo Meter (LKM} of 2D seismic survey in Uttar Pradesh and 430 LKM of 2D seismic survey in Uttarakhand has been carried out as on 01.04.2019. One exploratory block has been awarded under Open Acreage Licensing Programme - Bid Round I for petroleum exploration In the area.

Schemes for welfare of SCs

†3630. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any guidelines for proper implementation of its various ongoing schemes dedicated for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has set up a monitoring mechanism to ensure proper implementation of schemes by various State Governments;

(c) whether it is a fact that despite the various efforts being made by Government, a large number of people belonging to Scheduled Caste are living Below Poverty Line and they have nil assets, State-wise details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to develop a balanced and egalitarian society in India, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA) : (a) Yes Sir, All the schemes of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have guidelines for proper implementation and the implementing agencies are required to comply with guidelines.

(b) Regular monitoring of these schemes is being done through progress reports, meetings, conferences, video conferencing and regular field visits. Proposals are scrutinized by Multidisciplinary State Level Grant-in-aid Committee and submission of Utilization Certificate duly verified by Chartered Accountant.

(c) and (d) No data regarding number of SC persons living below the poverty line is available in the Ministry. However, all such schemes being implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Castes have the objective of developing a balanced and egalitarian society in India.

Anomaly in reservation for OBCs

†3631. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision about the sub-categorisation of the Other Backward Castes (OBCs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the objectives thereof;

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed to complete this work;

(d) whether it is a fact that even if a candidate from OBC category scores equal marks to that of a candidate from General category, yet he is considered as an OBC candidate; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would make an effort to address this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL) : (a) to (c) The Government has constituted a four-member Commission headed by Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini, Chief Justice (Retd.), Delhi High Court on 2nd October, 2017 under article 340 of the Constitution to examine the issues of the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes with the following terms of reference:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.