

cooperation in the field of oil between the Government of Libya and the Government of India signed in September 1973, a Joint Committee on Oil to supervise the execution of this agreement and to encourage and develop technical cooperation between the two countries had been set up.

At the first meeting of the Joint Committee held in Tripoli from October 9 to 12, 1974, it was decided in principle that India would purchase 2 million tonnes of crude oil from Libya during 1975 on terms and conditions to be specified later. India would explore the possibility of exchanging this crude oil with fertilizers.

ONGC proposal to purchase an old coastal steamer for conversion into drilling ship for oil exploration

2001. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many vessels in the Indian coastal fleet are very old and fit only for the scrap heap;

(b) if so, whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission propose to buy an oil coastal steamer, due for scrapping and to convert it into a drilling ship for oil exploration at Bombay High; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines regarding the plan of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) Some of the vessels in the Indian coastal fleet are old.

(b) and (c). To expedite the exploration and development of the Bombay High area, ONGC proposes to acquire additional mobile drilling rigs. For this purpose ONGC is on the look-out for suitable hulls (in operating condition) in India and elsewhere.

Quality of Lifebuoy Soap

2002. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lifebuoy soap coming in the market is far inferior as compared to its quality manufactured in the past in spite of its price having been raised by 50 per cent; and

(b) whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and direct the manufacturers to produce better quality of soap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) The total fatty matter content in Lifebuoy soap had come down some months ago and had declined to 57 per cent in July-August 1974, but has thereafter been restored to the normal level and Lifebuoy soap is currently being made with TFM of 61-62 per cent and is a pure soap.

(b) Does not arise.

Damage to Postal Van of Upper India Express due to fire

2003. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the extent of damage caused to Postal Van, as a result of fire in the adjacent compartment in the Upper India Express on 31st October, 1974?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): There was no Postal Van. The burnt coach No. SE 5205 was a second class coach, the leading half of which was open to passengers and the trailing half was being used for Railway Mail Service. This coach was completely burnt except the under frame. The cost of damage is estimated at approximately Rs. 1,95,000.