

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH)** (a) Only 258 pairs out of 1738 pairs of scheduled non-suburban passenger trains remain cancelled due to shortage of coal. Goods services are normal.

(b) The number of pairs of cancelled passenger trains zone-wise is given below —

Central . . . . .	Nil
Eastern . . . . .	Nil
Northern . . . . .	36
North Eastern . . . . .	40
Northeast Frontier . . . . .	Nil
Southern . . . . .	124
South Central . . . . .	3
South Eastern . . . . .	1
Western . . . . .	54
<b>Total :</b> . . . . .	<b>258</b>

The production and offer of steam coal has been improving and consequently supplies of coal to Railways has lately picked up. Anticipating the improvement in availability of coal will continue the required passenger trains are being now progressively restored.

**Import of Crude Oil from United Arab Emirates**

**77 SHRI ARJUN SETHI** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been any approach by India Government to the United Arab Emirates for the supply of crude oil over a fixed period, and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C P MAJHI)**

(a) and (b) The question of supply of crude oil from the United Arab Emirates is at a preliminary stage of discussion. It is too early to say what the final outcome would be.

**O&NGC Team's visit to Tripoli in Libya**

**78 SHRI ARJUN SETHI:**

**SHRI K M MADHUKAR:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether any high-level Oil and Natural Gas Commission team has visited Tripoli for further discussions to conclude the terms and conditions of the Libyan concession to the Commission for oil exploration in that country, and

(b) if so the broad outlines regarding the progress achieved so far?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C P MAJHI).**

(a) and (b) To hold discussions with the Libyan National Oil Company and for evaluating the oil prospects of Libya an ONGC team will be visiting Libya shortly.

**Exploration for Natural Gas at Tripura**

**79 SHRI R N BARMAN** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether recent exploration at Tripura has shown that there is abundance of natural gas there,

(b) if so, estimate of the gas that is likely to be found there, and

(c) by what time the gas can be put to commercial use and the scheme formulated in this behalf?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C P MAJHI)**

(a) A few gas horizons have been encountered in the first well drilled at Baramura structure in Tripura.

(b) and (c) The commercial nature of this strike can be established only after testing this well thoroughly and drilling and testing some more wells in this structure. And, it is only after the discovery is proved to be commercial that the question of its utilisation can be considered.