

Clearance during the current year is almost upto demands. Loading during 1971-72 was, however, affected due to unprecedented floods and consequent breaches.

**Assessment of oil prospects in on-shore and off-shore areas**

3035. SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA:  
SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any technical assessment has since been made by Government about the oil prospects both in on-shore and off-shore areas; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) and (b). Technical assessment of the oil prospects of the various land regions of India is a continuous process which is being conducted by the ONGC through geological, gravity, magnetic and seismic surveys. These surveys help to find structures and other traps favourable for occurrence of oil. Thereafter, the favourable traps are tested by drilling to locate and exploit the oil reserves.

Based on the results of these operations, the Commission has so far established over 100 million tonnes of recoverable oil reserve in various land areas in Gujarat and Assam, out of which crude oil is being produced currently at the rate of 4.13 million tonnes per annum. Additionally, Oil India Ltd., and Assam Oil Company have also established oil reserves in some of the areas held by them under licences/leases in the North-Eastern region. The balance recoverable reserves in their areas are approximately of the order of 42 million tonnes and their present production rate is slightly over 3 million tonnes per annum. Oil India Ltd. plan to undertake

further exploratory activities in the areas already given to them in the past.

The ONGC, with the help of a team of Soviet Experts, had undertaken a techno-economic feasibility study of future development of hydrocarbon resources in India. Based on this study, the Commission has drawn up a five-year implementation plan and submitted it to Government for consideration. One of the objectives of the plan is to discover 64 million tonnes of additional recoverable crude oil reserves over the five-year period of its operation.

The Commission has also carried out seismic surveys in some of the off-shore areas. Based on the results thereof, an off-shore well in the Aliabet area in the Gulf of Cambay was drilled but the oil-find there was not found to be of commercial interest. It is proposed to initiate drilling in the Bombay-High and the adjoining areas from 1973-74 onwards with the help of the mobile platform "Saugar Samrat", which is presently undergoing Sea-trials in Japan prior to its delivery to the ONGC. Further off-shore surveys are also contemplated by the ONGC in such areas of the Continental Shelf of the country as have not been covered till now.

**Fares and Freight in India as Compared to Foreign Countries**

3036. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passenger fares and freight in Indian Railways are higher as compared to foreign Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

### Electrification of villages

3037. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 20 per cent of villages in the country have been electrified so far despite heavy investment in the Rural Electrification Corporation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOBIND VERMA): (a) and (b). Considerable progress has been made during the Fourth Plan period in village electrification. As against 73,722 villages electrified as on 31-3-1969, 132,419 villages have been electrified upto 31-12-1972 and the number of villages electrified has almost doubled. The All India average of village electrification is 23.4 per cent. The Rural Electrification schemes are formulated and implemented by the State Electricity Boards/Governments and financed from State Plan outlays and also from loans from financing institutions like Life Insurance Corporation, Banks etc. Besides additive finances are provided by Rural Electrification Corporation which has been set up in the Central Sector in 1969. The loans from Rural Electrification Corporation thus finance only a part of the rural electrification programmes. The Rural Electrification Corporation financing has become available during the Fourth Five Year Plan only. The Corporation has so far sanctioned 394 schemes envisaging loan assistance of Rs. 208.97 crores for electrification *inter-alia* of 35,957 villages. These schemes are still in progress as they are scheduled to be completed over a period of 3 to 5 years.

पूर्व रेलवे दानापुर और साहेबगंज के लोको शैडों के कर्मचारियों की सेवा में व्यवधान के विरुद्ध लोको मैकेनिकल स्टाफ एसोसिएशन द्वारा जापन

3038. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पूर्व रेलवे के दानापुर और साहेबगंज के लोको शैडों में काम करने वाले 120 कर्मचारियों की सेवा में व्यवधान के आदेश दे दिए गए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या कर्मचारियों की सेवा में व्यवधान के आदेश के विरुद्ध लोको मैकेनिकल स्टाफ एसोसिएशन की ओर से कोई जापन दिया गया है और यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद शफी कुरेशी) : (क) और (ख). चूंकि दानापुर शड के 120 और साहिबगंज शड के 220 सम्बन्धित कर्मचारियों के बारे में यह समझा गया कि उन्होंने गैर-कानूनी हड़ताल में हिस्सा लिया है अतः उनकी सेवा में स्वतः व्यवधान हो गया ।

(ग) एक जापन प्राप्त हुआ है और उस पर विचार किया जा रहा है ?

फतुहा-इस्लामपुर लाइट  
रेलवे का बन्द होना

3039. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या फतुहा-इस्लामपुर लाइट रेलवे बन्द होने जा रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?