

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No concrete suggestions were received regarding measures for curtailing of expenditure and toning up income of the Railways, either during or immediately before the strike.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Recovery of Arrears from Public Sector Undertakings

2032. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are proposed to be taken to recover the huge amounts of arrears from many of the public sector undertakings which are due to the Railways on account of transportation of coal, steel and other items;

(b) whether representations have been received from these undertakings for allowing a phased recovery; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Public Sector Undertakings have been advised to clear all the railway dues with utmost speed and meetings have been held at various levels impressing upon them the necessity for clearance of outstanding dues of the Railways. Meetings have also been held with the controlling Ministries even at the Minister's level.

The Zonal Railways have also been advised to make pre-payment of freight compulsory for traffic booked to those public sector undertakings who do not clear the railway dues despite taking up the matter at the highest levels.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Oil Exploration in Assam

2033. SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) at what places prospects for oil have been discovered in various parts of Assam;

(b) whether drilling operations have been commenced by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the District of Cachar and other parts of Assam; and

(c) if so, the present progress of such drilling operations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI) (a) Oil has been discovered in Assam by ONGC at Rudrasagar, Lakwa, Geleki, Borholla, Amguri and Charali.

Apart from Nahorkatiya and Moran oil fields discovered in the fifties, Oil India Limited (OIL) has discovered oil in Assam (in small quantities) at Jaipur, Santi, Langkasi, Kathaiguri, Kusijan, Jorajan, Tarajan, Nagajan, Zaloni Madhuting-Tipling, Tinali and Tengakhat.

(b) and (c): While drilling by ONGC in Cachar District is planned during 1976-77, the drilling operations are in progress at Rudrasagar, Lakwa, Galeki, Borholla, Amguri and Amguri-Jorhat. From Rudrasagar, Lakwa and Geleki fields crude oil is being produced presently at the rate of about 1.1 million tonnes per year.

#### Double Railway Line from Sonapat/Panipat to Delhi

2034. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 973 on 26th February, 1974 regarding doubling of railway line from Sonapat/Panipat to Delhi and state:

(a) whether doubling of 56.55 km. between Subzimandi and Ganaur has been started; and