

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (b). The Dutch Government have given loans to the Government of India. A part of these loans is being utilised for financing the purchase by ONGC of a pipe-lay-cum derrick barge from a Dutch firm valued at Rs. 21.74 crores approximately. The Dutch loan is repayable, with an interest of 2½ per cent per annum, over a period of 30 years (inclusive of a grace period of 8 years).

Import of Rigs to step up Oil Exploration

2097 **SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import eight rigs to step up oil exploration; and

(b) if so, the countries from which they are being imported and the total expenditure involved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (b) In addition to two American rigs with an estimated c.i.f. cost of Rs. 698 crores (without accessories), which are in transit, orders have recently been placed for 2 Romanian rigs (with spares and accessories) at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crores. However, in order to encourage indigenous capability, a letter of intent has been sent to BHEL for supply of seven rigs.

Railway Line upto Saleroom in South Tripura via Agartala

2098. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged to lay a railway line upto Sale-

room in South Tripura via Agartala; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) In view of inadequate availability of funds and lack of traffic justification the proposed rail link cannot be taken up at present

Use by Public Sector Units of products by Roberts McLean Company Ltd.

2099 **SHRI SUBODH HANSDA:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector fertilizer units are using any product marketed by Roberts McLean Company Limited; and

(b) if so, the total amount of purchase by them during the year ending 31st July, 1976?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). M/s Roberts McLean Company Limited are suppliers of cleaning agents for heat exchanger tubes and packings in towers and also of fire extinguisher refills and fire buckets. For the year ending 31st July, 1976 relatively small purchases have been made from this firm of the following value:—

F.C.I.—Rs. 1.00 lakh

F.A.C.T.—Rs. 4,151/-

Rourkela

Fertilizer

plant—Rs. 49,500/-