

dealers commission with effect from 1st July, 1976;

(b) whether any high level meeting was held during July 1976 to hear and redress the grievances of the All India Petroleum Traders/Dealers; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) to (c). Representations were received from dealers and their associations for modification of the rates of commission on motor spirit and high speed diesel oil introduced from 1-7-76. The Chairman & Members of the Oil Prices Committee held detailed discussions with the representatives of the Dealers' Associations and the All India Federation of Petroleum Traders on the 14th July, 1976. The points made by the Associations are being looked into by the Oil Prices Committee, whose final report is awaited. The Associations have been informed accordingly.

#### Legal Profession for Women

2145 SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of women Judges in the High Courts of the country and whether there is any women Judge in the Supreme Court; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to encourage the women folk to adopt the legal profession?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) There is only one woman Judge of High Court, among a total Judge strength of 351. There is no woman Judge in the Supreme Court.

(b) The Chief Ministers were requested that while sending proposals

to fill vacancies in the High Courts, names of suitable women advocates/Judicial Officers, if available, be considered and recommended for appointment as Judges.

#### Financial difficulties for Future on-shore Exploration Programme

2146. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether future on-shore exploration programme has been held up due to shortage of funds;

(b) whether the present rigs are not capable of drilling beyond 3,000 metres;

(c) whether any areas have been abandoned, if so the reasons; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to speed up the on-shore exploration work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) No, Sir

(b) No, Sir. The ONGC has several rigs capable of drilling beyond 3000 metres

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The ONGC is intensifying its activities for oil exploration in the most prospective areas onshore, without relenting in its offshore efforts. New drilling rigs where necessary have been and are being acquired for deployment for exploratory drilling.

#### Indian Companies in Foreign Countries

2147. SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian companies operating abroad as on 31st March, 1976; and