

**Drilling Rigs Imported from USSR for Bombay High**

1157. SHRMATI MRINAL GORE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drilling rigs imported from USSR for the off-shore drilling in Bombay High have been found worthless; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made any efforts to import better quality of drilling rigs from countries other than the U.S.S.R.?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). No drilling rigs have been imported from U. S. S. R. for off-shore drilling in Bombay High.

**Employment to sons/daughters of employees forcibly retired during Emergency**

1158. SHRI GANGADHAR APPA BURANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to recall those personnel who were the victims of forcible retirement during the Emergency; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to give employment to their sons/daughters and dependents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) and (b). The cases of the employees concerned are now being reviewed in the light of Government's announcement during Railway Budget 1977-78.

**Setting up of a Separate Company for Off-shore Oil Exploration**

1159. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal under considering to set up a

separate company for off-shore oil explorations;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) which are the places where off-shore drilling is in progress at present and the places where drilling is likely to be taken up during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present off-shore drilling is being carried out in Bombay High, Deeper Continental Shelf Area and in Bassein North oil field by ONGC. Drilling is also being carried out in the Gulf of Mannar by a foreign contractor viz. Assamera Group.

During the current financial year, apart from continuing drilling in the above mentioned areas, drilling will also be undertaken in South Bassein, Gulf of Cambay and in the Shelf area lying South of Bombay High and Bassein field.

**Measures to economise use of Oil**

1160. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have asked the State Governments and the Union Territories to economise in the use of oil; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The following measures have been suggested to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for effecting economy in the use of oil: