

duction platform in Bombay High and ONGC proposes to install a third production platform there before the monsoon of 1979. It would be capable of processing about 160,000 barrels of oil per day. It is estimated to cost Rs 43 crores approximately.

(c) and (d) The decision to install the aforesaid third production platform has been taken only recently of the Oil & Natural Gas Commission and the Commission have since floated tenders for its fabrication and installation. The closing date for the receipt of tenders is September 30, 1977.

Amount spent on oil exploration in Tripura

1993 SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether huge amount has been spent on oil exploration in Tripura without any fruitful results and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

Identity cards for voters

1994 SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether suggestions have been received to provide identity cards to voters so as to avoid election malpractices, and

(b) the reaction of the Election Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN) (a) A few

suggestions have been received by the Election Commission in this behalf

(b) The scheme of issue of photographed identity cards was tried in a bye-election held from the Calcutta South-West Parliamentary constituency held in 1959. In spite of strenuous efforts spread over a period of ten months, only 2,13,600 electors out of a total of 3,42,000 electors could be effectively photographed. Attached identity cards with photographed attached could thereafter be issued only to 2,10,000. The scheme was tried on an experimental basis. Experience at that time showed that the system was prohibitively costly and administratively difficult to operate. The Election Commission are not in favour of the scheme.

Problems raised by Aurangabad (Division) Industries Association

1995 DR BAPU KALDATE Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Aurangabad (Division) Industries Association had sent a letter on 21st April, 1977 about the problems of railways in development of industries in Marathwada a backward region of Maharashtra, and

(b) what steps Government intend to take to solve the problems of developing industries in that area?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) and (b) Yes. The Association have requested for construction of the following lines —

- (1) Conversion of Manmad-Mudkhed section from MG to BG
- (2) Conversion of Kurduwadi-Latur narrow gauge line and extension of the line to Latur Road
- (3) Construction of a new line from Aurangabad to Sholapur via Bhir and Osmanabad

The conversion of the Manmad-Parbhani-Puri Vajinath metre gauge line into broad gauge is already in progress and recently a survey has been carried out for gauge conversion of Parbhani-Mudkhed-Adilabad section and extension of the line from Adilabad to Ghugus. A decision regarding conversion of the metre gauge line from Parbhani to Mudkhed will be taken after the examination of the survey reports is completed and would depend upon the availability of resources.

Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Surveys for the conversion of Minaj-Kurduwadi-Latur Narrow Gauge section to broad gauge and construction of a new broad gauge line from Latur to Latur Road have been carried out. Due to paucity of funds it will not be possible to take up this project at present.

As regards the proposal for a line from Aurangabad to Sholapur (300 Kms), no survey has been made so far.

Improvement in double decker coaches

1996 SHRI K SURYANARAYANA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Railways are experimenting with double-decker coaches,

(b) if so, the reaction of the public to the same, and

(c) whether any suggestions for improvement of the new coaches have been received from the public?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE):
(a) Yes

(b) The reaction of the public is satisfactory

(c) Yes, mainly in regard to:

- (i) provision of light luggage rack;
- (ii) increase in air circulation,
- (iii) provision of drinking water

Shortage of petrol and diesel in hilly areas

1997 SHRI R K AMIN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is acute shortage of petrol and diesel in the hilly areas of Northern India and as a result a great deal of inconvenience is being faced by the pilgrims and tourists? and

(b) if so, reasons for the shortage and what steps Government proposes to take to meet the requirements and come to the rescue of pilgrims and tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) and

(b) Though some temporary problems regarding availability of petrol and High Speed Diesel Oil in the retail outlets located in hilly regions of Northern India were experienced, corrective action was taken to avoid any acute shortage. Steps are also being taken to improve availability of these products for tourists and pilgrims.

Expenditure on election to State Assemblies

1998 SHRI DURGA CHAND Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the total expenditure incurred by Government on State Assemblies elections in 1977,