

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) to (d). Government are contemplating introduction of a Bill to amend the Constitution after consulting other political parties in Parliament. The exact form of the Bill would depend upon the outcome of the consultations.

Oil Exploration by ONGC in Godavari and Kaveri River Basins

253. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has started or planned for any work for identifying the areas where oil and gas could be struck for progressive exploitation in Godavari and Kaveri river basins; and

(b) if so, the details of the plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, on the basis of the surveys carried out in Godavari onshore, drilling is proposed to be carried out shortly on a location near Narsapur town. It is also proposed to carry out surveys in Godavari offshore. In Cauvery onshore, based on extensive surveys conducted, 18 deep and 10 structural wells have so far been drilled but no commercial hydrocarbons have been discovered there. Surveys in Cauvery onshore are continuing. In offshore Cauvery between Pondicherry and Karaikal seismic surveys have recently been carried out. In the Gulf of Mannar one well was drilled but was found to be dry. However, the data obtained are being evaluated to determine the scope of further work.

Deraiment of Madras Rameshwaram-Passenger Train

254. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK:

SHRI HUKAM CHAND
KACHWAI:

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that on 17th October, 1977 number of passengers were killed and injured in the derailment of the engine and five coaches of Rameshwaram bound Madras- Rameshwaram Passenger between Paramakudi and Pandi-Kanmayi stations on the metre-gauge section of Southern Railway; and

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and injured in the accident, compensation paid and action taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). In the derailment of 107 Down Madras Egmore-Rameswaram Passenger train between Paramakudi and Pandikanmoi stations on 17th October, 1977, 2 persons were killed, 7 sustained grievous injuries and 4 simple injuries. This accident has been inquired into by the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Bangalore. Suitable action will be taken on receipt of his inquiry report.

The claims can be preferred within a period of 3 months from the date of accident to the Claims Commissioner. On the basis of the verdict given by the court of the Claims Commissioner, payments are arranged by the Railway Administration. No compensation under the Indian Railways Act has been paid so far.