

Survey by ONGC for oil in North Bengal

8830. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC have so far conducted any survey for oil drilling in North Bengal; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and have any intention to survey in future; if so what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):

(a) and (b). Geological and geophysical surveys have been carried out by the ONGC in North Bengal in the past. The results of these geological and geophysical investigations, however, did not favour further surveys.

Charter of Demands

8831. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far initiated any bilateral negotiation with the representatives of the Trade Unions of the Railwaymen on the charter of demands submitted by the different trade unions;

(b) if so, the progress thereof; and

(c) details of the negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). There have been discussions with both the recognised Federations and the Government's stand on the various issues raised by them has been explained to them in great detail.

Discussions have also been held by the Minister for Railways with some Members of Parliament and certain other representatives of staff.

It has been made clear to the representatives of the employees that consideration of some issues like bonus, need-based minimum wages etc. should await the report of Boothalingam Committee which has undertaken an indepth study of National incomes, wages and prices, while other issues like subsidised foodgrains, dearness allowance formula etc. cannot be considered for railway employees in isolation and whatever decision is taken for the Government as a whole, this will be adopted for railway employees also.

Memorandum from O.N.G.C Workmen's Association, Calcutta

8832. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since received a memorandum from the O.N.G.C. workmen's Association, Calcutta recently;

(b) if so, essential features of the memorandum; and

(c) action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):

(a) Yes, Sir. Recently a Memorandum dated 22-3-1978 has been received from the ONGC Workmen's Association, Calcutta.

(b) The Memorandum has, *inter alia* raised two points: one relating to the shifting of the headquarters of the Assam geological/geophysical field parties from Calcutta to Mezanga in Assam and the other about various aspects of exploration activities of the ONGC in West Bengal.

(c) The matter is being looked into.