

months has presented its report on the 9th June, 1978;

(c) whether the Soviet team has recommended intensification of exploration surveys specially in the area South of Sunderbans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereto?

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

(d) The Soviet team has recommended conducting of seismic surveys in the area south of Sunderbans. This area is, however, marshy and is one of the most difficult areas for conducting seismic surveys, and requires specialised equipment which is currently not available with the ONGC. It is, therefore, proposed to get the seismic survey done quickly through foreign contractors and for this purpose, tender enquiries to various reputed firms abroad capable of doing this job have already been floated by the ONGC.

#### **Customers releasing wagons in time**

2297. **SHRI C. VENUGOPAL:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a common malaise in the Railway transport is the failure of the customers to release wagons in time;

(b) the names of the principal customers and the excess period for which they held the wagons frozen during 1977-78; and

(c) action taken for rationalising and streamlining the position?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):** (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

#### **Proposal to introduce fast train between Ahmedabad and Baroda**

2298. **PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering any proposal for introducing fast daily trains between Ahmedabad and Baroda as also between Baroda and Surat with a view to helping the thousands of daily commuters like employees, students, workers, etc.;

(b) if so, when will the Government begin operating such trains and how; and

(c) if not, why not?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Introduction of new trains between Ahmadabad-Vadodara and Vadodara-Surat is at present not operationally feasible due to strained line capacity on Ahmedabad-Vadodara and Vadodara-Surat sections.

#### **Proposal to increase Frequency of Navjivan Express**

2299. **PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the frequency of the Navjivan Express running between Ahmedabad and Madras;

(b) if so, when and how;

(c) if not, why not; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the present weekly service from the said two stations result into considerable percentage of unused railway rakes and if it is so, how much is it in what way it is proposed to be utilised to the maximum?