

sea oil exploration in the Godavari off-shore area;

(b) if so, whether any response has been received and the name of the country with whom collaboration agreement has been entered into with details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Mexican Government has agreed to help India in oil exploration and setting up of Joint projects in refineries and fertilizers in the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No decision has been taken so far.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Results of study by N.P.C. regarding saving in Light Diesel Oil

2569. **SHRI HARINATH MISRA:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study made by the National Productivity Council, which revealed that several hundred million litres of light diesel oil can be saved by—(i) improving the efficiency of irrigation pumps, and (ii) preferring Railways to road transport for goods haulage; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN) (a) Yes, Sir. It has been recommended in a study conducted by the National Productivity Council that the pump sets in the agricultural sector to be supplied should be carefully selected from the point of view of efficiency, irrigation needs of the farmers and the local

conditions and that good transportation by Railways should be preferred.

(b) State Electricity Boards have been already advised that agricultural consumers should be persuaded to buy pumps with proper power factor and efficiency. The strategy of Government in regard to transportation of freight is to develop the capacity of Railways to undertake all bulk freight traffic except for piecemeal medium distance and short distance traffic.

Appointment of Standing Counsels by Central Government in High Courts

2370. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) are there any rules for deciding as to who should be appointed as the Central Government Standing Counsel in High Courts;

(b) what are the qualifications and minimum experience required for appointing a person as a Central Government Standing Counsel in High Courts;

(c) whether all the Central Government Standing Counsels appointed by the Central Government in High Courts since 1980 fulfil the said qualifications and experience;

(d) in how many cases the Chief Justice of the High Court and Advocate General of the State have been consulted before making such appointments; and

(e) in how many cases, they have not been consulted?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b). There are no rules or qualifications and minimum experience prescribed or the persons appointed by my Ministry as Central Government Standing Counsel in the different