

ding water supply and sanitation. The Ministry of Rehabilitation have now approved the scheme subject to technical details being cleared.

In so far as the supply of medical stores is concerned, supplies are being made to the Government of West Bengal, as also to the other States where refugees have come, to meet their requirements.

Survey for Oil in West Bengal

1448. SHRI SUBHOD HANSDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether search for natural oil in West Bengal has been abandoned ;

(b) if not, the areas selected for surveying and the stage at which the survey result stands ; and

(c) whether any drilling will be made on the basis of the survey results ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Seismic surveys have so far been concentrated in areas south-west to south-east of Calcutta, covering Tamluk-Haldia, Budge Budge-Diamond Harbour, Bodra-Port Canning and Barasat areas. These are areas where prospects of finding oil are considered particularly favourable. These areas have been covered by semi-detailed seismic reflection surveys, with detailed seismic surveys in Chaitanyapur-Haldia, Budge Budge-Bawali, Bodra and Barasat areas, using analogue magnetic recording instruments. During the field seasons 1970-71, two parties have been working in and around Bodra area with digital seismic-units.

(c) Drilling will be undertaken if these digital seismic surveys indicate the presence of favourable structures for oil/gas accumulations.

Retrenchment of Naval Employees

1449. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of employees in

the Naval Bakery, Naval Base, Cochin have been retrenched from the service ;

(b) if so, the total number of employees retrenched ;

(c) the reasons for the said retrenchment ; and

(d) the steps taken to absorb them in some alternative posts ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : (a) to (c) As the bakery at Cochin has been closed down, 15 employees have been retrenched.

(d) Efforts are being made to offer alternative appointments to the affected individuals.

Formation of Joint Committee of Government and Drug Industry Representatives to study the Impact of Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1970

1450. SHRI TEJA SINGH SWATANTRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drug industry has suggested the formation of a joint committee of Government and industry representatives to study the effects of Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1970 and its implementation ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b) A suggestion that a Joint Committee be set up to study the effects of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1970 was made in the speech of the Chairman, Reception Committee at the 6th All India Drugs and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Conference held in Bombay on the 2nd May, 1971. The then Minister in charge of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri D. R. Chavan) who inaugurated the meeting pointed out that the drugs industry and the trade have been consulted from time to time regarding the working of the Drug (Prices Control) Order 1970 and that the practice would be continued. He added that in the circumstances, the setting up of a formal committee of the kind proposed was not considered necessary, by Government.