

**Agreement with U. S. S. R. for equipment for Oil Exploration in India**

1376. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union has offered India equipment for oil exploration in this country;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(c) whether any Indian delegation had visited the USSR recently in this connection, and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) what other assistance will be provided by the USSR?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Contracts for supplies of equipment for oil exploration and production have been signed from time to time between the ONGC and the concerned Soviet firms. The last such contract was signed on March 30, 1973 involving import of equipment etc. of a value of Rs. 2.65 crores.

(c) and (d). The progress in the Indo-Soviet Cooperation in oil exploration and production was reviewed in the discussions that took place on July 17—20, 1973 at Moscow, between an Indian Oil Delegation led by the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals and Soviet authorities. As a result of these discussions and the detailed consultations which had separately taken place earlier between the representatives of the ONGC and the concerned Soviet suppliers, the ONGC hopes to conclude, at an early date, commercial deals involving further import of equipment for oil exploration and production from the USSR.

In the field of oil exploration and production, apart from the supply of equipment, the Soviet Union has also agreed to depute technical experts to assist the

ONGC in certain specialised activities; these include an estimation of hydrocarbon reserves in the various basins in the country, and carrying out such of the laboratories studies for which the requisite facilities were not available in India, as also to help the ONGC in the resolution of some of its production problems.

**Scheme to Award Contracts to Qualified Unemployed Persons**

1377. SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TEWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration to award contracts of different nature to qualified unemployed persons;

(b) if so, the main features thereof and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to study such a scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to a scheme of awarding contracts to qualified unemployed Civil Engineers. If so, the reply is as under:

With a view to providing employment opportunities to unemployed Civil Engineering Graduates, a scheme has already been formulated as a pilot project.

Under this Scheme the unemployed Civil Engineering Graduates are permitted to tender for construction works contracts upto the limit of Rs. one lakh in each case without depositing the requisite Earnest Money and the initial Security Money. Such of the Engineering Graduates who are desirous of taking up such contracts individually or collectively are first required to register themselves with the respective Railways as 'Contractors'.