

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Supply of foodgrains and other essential commodities for the general public including Railway employees is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and fair price shops are set up in the country as part of general distribution system. The Railways are, however, encouraging the railway employees to set up and run the Railwaymen's Consumer Co-operative Societies. Various facilities and concessions are provided to such Societies for their orderly growth. Generally, the stations having concentration of 300 or more Railway employees are covered by fair price shops run through the agency of either Railwaymen's Consumer Co-operative Societies or State authorised dealers to meet the need of the Railwaymen and their families. The matter is, however, being examined with a view to getting the State Governments to set up more fair price shops for Railway staff

(c) The steps taken by the Geological Survey of India (G.S.I.) to strengthen its Marine Geological Wing and to survey the sub-Himalayan region are

- (i) The Marine Geology Unit established in 1965 is presently manned by 9 Geologists; the unit is being expanded and the GSI has also taken action to procure a ship for Marine Geological work.
- (ii) Geological mapping of Himalayan and Sub-Himalayan areas by G.S.I. is being carried out from various circle offices. Besides a Himalayan Geology Division has been set up to intensify and ensure purposeful synthesis of the work being carried out in the Himalayan region.

In so far as search for crude oil is concerned the ONGC has conducted geological and geophysical surveys in parts of the Himalayan region.

Survey of Continental shelf for Oil Exploration

2676 PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures suggested by the Geological Survey of India for proper survey and exploration of continental shelf along the coastal region of the country to make the country self-sufficient in fossil oil ;

(b) the action taken/proposed on the measures suggested; and

(c) steps taken to strengthen the marine geological wing and to survey the sub-Himalayan region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, such measures to make the country self sufficient in oil have been suggested.

(b) Does not arise.

Inclusion of Sholapur Division in Central Railway Zone

2677. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed to Study the demand for the inclusion of Sholapur division in the Central Railway Zone has met and arrived at its findings ;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the Committee ;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on Committee's recommendations ; and

(d) if so, the nature thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) The Committee has not yet completed its task

(b) to (d), Do not arise.