

जाने होते हैं। कुछ नियुक्तियों की बाबत प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हो गये हैं और उनकी जांच की जा रही है। शेष नियुक्तियों की बाबत राज्य प्राधिकारियों द्वारा प्रस्ताव भेजे जाने की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है और उन्हें इस संबंध में स्मरण करा दिया गया है।

(ग) विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है ? [समाज में रखा गया। देखिये सख्या एन टी-8636/74]

#### Scheme of Saudi Arabia on Future Pricing of Oil

2854. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the reported scheme put forward by Saudi Arabia on future pricing of oil by six major Gulf oil-producing States;

(b) if so, the extent to which such proposals would adversely affect the consumers and most particularly India;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to procure oil at cheap rates in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to face the challenge of oil shortage in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) At a recent meeting of the Gulf Oil producing countries, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar have decided as follows:—

1. To lower the crude oil posted prices by 40 U.S. cents per barrel with effect from November, 1, 1974.

2. To raise the rate of royalties to 20 per cent.

3. To raise the rate of income tax applicable to the oil companies to 85 per cent.

The revised price formula will be effective upto the end of July, 1975.

However, Iran, Iraq and Kuwait, the other three participants at this meeting, dissociated themselves from the decision.

(b) With this decision, the foreign oil companies in India have intimated increase in their prices w.e.f. 1st November, 1974 in the case of Exxon and Caltex, and from 14th November, 1974 in the case of Burmah Shell.

(c) Import of crude oil under bilateral deferred payment has been arranged from Iraq and Iran.

(d) The following steps have been taken:—

(1) Efforts to maximise the production of indigenous crude have been intensified.

(2) Through various optimisation exercises the yield pattern of crude in the refineries has been adjusted in a manner to get the most economical yield pattern. Product specifications have also been adjusted as far as possible for this purposes.

Fiscal measures have been taken to curb the consumption of some products like Motor gasoline, Lubricating oils, bitumen etc. Price of furnace oil has also been increased to encourage switch over to coal. Steps have been taken to encourage efficiency in the use of fuel. Availability of kerosene, an item of personal consumption, has been reduced to the maximum extent possible.

(4) Petroleum products which are surplus to our requirements, are being exported.

(5) Assistance has also been taken from the oil facility of I.M.F.

#### Proposals to increase outlay for and NGC during Fifth Plan

2855. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the outlay for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during the Fifth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the purpose for which it would be used?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) and (b). The ONGC's Fifth Five Year Plan has been drawn up in terms of certain physical targets. To the extent the internal resources of ONGC, from time to time, fall short of requirements for achievement of the targets, it would be Government's endeavour to supplement Commission's financial requirements.

**Retrenchment Notice on Employees of Bridge Engineering Department, Vijayawada Division (South Central Railway).**

2856. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in the Bridge Engineering Department in the Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway who were given retrenchment notice;

(b) the reasons for retrenching these workers before undertaking a cadre review particularly when they have put in a number of years of service; and

(c) whether any attempt has been made to absorb them in other Departments and other places in South Central Railway?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Thirty-three casual labourers were given retrenchment notices due to completion of works.

(c) Yes, but no vacancies were available to accommodate them as there is curtailment of works.

**Caltex Refinery at Visakhapatnam working below capacity**

2857. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Caltex is working its refinery at Visakhapatnam much below its capacity;

(b) how does the production in the current year compare with that for a similar period last year;

(c) whether the reasons for under utilization have been ascertained and if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government to assist the Company to work the said refinery to its full capacity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) The Caltex Refinery has been operating only slightly below its normal operating level of 1.25 million tonnes per annum.

(b) The crude throughput of the refinery during January-October, 1974 was 0.97 million tonnes as against 0.94 million tonnes during the corresponding period in 1973.

(c) and (d). The refinery is operating on imported crude oil. In view of the limited availability of foreign exchange for imports of crude/products, the intake of crude oil of the refineries operating on imported crude, including Caltex Refinery, had to be adjusted in a manner as to give the optimum benefit. Efforts are, however, being made to import maximum quantity of crude oil within the foreign exchange available.

**Railway Line from Jhanjharpur-Loukaha and Darbhanga—Samastipur**

2859. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2314 on the 13th