

**Retrenchment of Old Workers of Dornakal to Absorb Sons/Wards of Strike Breakers**

2189. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of old workers (CMR Khalasis) of Dornakal are being retrenched to accommodate the sons and wards of the strike breakers;

(b) whether his Ministry has received any representation against this policy of victimisation; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) On enquiry it is found that only 4 daily rated staff and one substitute, all engaged against purely short term vacancies, were displaced when regularly selected candidates were appointed from the sons of loyal workers. This action of the Railway Administration is correct.

**India's participation in an International Oil Conference proposed by French President**

2190. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is among the three developing countries invited to take part in preparatory talks in connection with an International Oil Conference proposed by the French President;

(b) if so, the other oil producing and consuming countries participating in the meeting; and

(c) the broad outlines of the proposal prepared by the Government of India for the meeting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) to (c). India has been invited by the French President to an international oil conference. Government is not aware of the countries who have accepted the invitation. A decision on whether India would take part in this conference would be taken after considering all aspects of the matter.

**Proposal from Shah of Iran for reducing Oil Prices**

2191. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the news item saying that Shah of Iran would urge oil producing countries to lower their prices by 14 per cent;

(b) if so, the expected oil scarcity position in India that would be avoided as a result thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to enter into fresh agreements with Iran for purchase of oil; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports to the effect that the Shah of Iran would try to persuade the oil producing nations to reduce the prices of oil by about 14 per cent. It is not possible to indicate at this stage what will be the reaction of oil producing countries to this suggestion, although at a recent meeting of the Gulf