

product to the Government at a price less than the imported price;

(b) whether Vitamin-C is being imported in some quantity at a higher price; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to see that the production of Indian firm is lifted by Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). M/s. Jayant Vitamins have advised Government that they have commenced production of Vitamin C and have requested for a fixation of price of their product. The price asked for by the company for Vitamin C produced by them is more than the price of Vitamin C imported by the STC.

Expenditure on research and oil exploration by O & NGC in 1975

49. SHRI B. S. BHAURA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether O&NGC has proposed to spend Rs. 255 crores in 1975 for research and oil exploration; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. ONGE plans to spend Rs. 255.36 crores in 1975-76 for exploration/production of crude oil and natural gas. This takes into account the Commission's onshore/offshore operations including its overseas operations. It also includes a proposed outlay of Rs. 2.90 crores for research.

Punitive action against Railway employees on Eastern Railway

50. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether punitive actions against a number of Railway employees on Eastern Railway for participating in Railway strike of May, 1974 have been condoned;

(b) if so, the number of such employees on each division and zone on Eastern Railways and the particulars of condonation;

(c) the reason for such condonation; and

(d) whether Government propose to take such steps of condonation for all the Railways employees on all Railways and if so, when and how and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (c). No railway employee was penalised for mere participation in the illegal strike in May 1974. However, where staff flouted the law of the land and violated clear orders they were suitably dealt with. After the strike was called off unconditionally Government decided that cases of staff dismissed/removed/terminated from service may be reviewed on appeal on the merits of each case. It was also decided that the break in service may be condoned where the Administration is satisfied that the staff could not come to work for reasons beyond their control.

(b) A statement showing the present position in respect of staff who were dismissed/removed/terminated from service, suspended from duty and who had break in service on the