

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BDTA SINGH): (a) The State Government of Karnataka have been submitting proposals for certain new lines

(b) and (c). The Government of the State of Karnataka have been submitting the following proposals whose present position is given below:

- (1) Hubli-Karwar (BG) 191.29 kms. Cost Rs. 34.8 crores
- (2) Talguppa-Honavar (BG) 79.28 kms Cost Rs. 32 crores
- (3) Rayadurg-Chitradurg (MG) 94.65 kms. Cost Rs. 6.42 crores

Surveys have been completed and examination of the survey reports has revealed that the lines are not remunerative and are not likely to attract sufficient traffic. It has, therefore, been decided not to pursue these proposals at present.

- (4) Kottur-Harihar (MG) 118.77 kms. Cost Rs. 8.13 crores.

Surveys have been completed and the reports are under examination. A decision will be taken after the examination is completed?

- (5) Chamarajanagar-Satyamangalam (MG).

Earlier survey reports for this line upto Coimbatore (length 162 kms.—Cost Rs. 18 crores) have revealed that the line is financially not viable. There is, therefore, no proposal for taking up this project at present.

- (6) Bellary—Gulbarga via Sirguppappa, Sindhanoor, Lingasa—

gur, Sholapur and Surpur—300 kms. Cost Rs. 32.00 crores

- (7) Miraj—Gulbarga via Bijapur 275 kms Cost Rs. 36.00 crores

- (8) Kudchi—Raichur 315 kms. Cost Rs. 42 crores

Due to paucity of funds and in the absence of any major development industrial or otherwise, it will not be possible to undertake construction of the proposed lines at present.

In addition to the above mentioned proposals, the following new rail line projects have already been approved in the State of Karnataka and they are in progress:

- (1) Hassan-Mangalore (MG)—Length 189 kms Cost Rs. 42 Crores.
- (2) Tornagallu-Mudukulapenta (BG) Length 24 kms. Cost Rs 3.30 crores

Reduction in Crude Oil imported by Burmah Shell and Caltex

49. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial reduction in the crude oil brought in by Burmah Shell and Caltex Companies during 1975; and

(b) if so the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Within the limited foreign exchange availability for import of crude, the major portion of India's crude oil requirements during 1975 was arranged in terms of contracts entered into by the Indian Oil Corporation with the National Oil Com-

panies of Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and UAE. Supplies to Madras Refineries Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited were covered in terms of contracts with NIOC/AMOCO of Iran and EXXON respectively. These factors led to a substantial reduction in the crude oil brought in by Burmah Shell and Caltex during 1975.

ONGC Plan for massive oil search

50. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has chalked out a plan for a massive oil search in the country; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (b). The ONGC has chalked out a fairly ambitious plan for oil search in the country. Its broad features are:—

- (i) to extend its exploration work to almost all sedimentary basins of India on land and to the extent possible in off-shore wherever possibility of finding hydrocarbons on geological etc. considerations exist;
- (ii) quick development of the discovered oilfields;
- (iii) maximum utilisation of the existing production wells; and
- (iv) wider application of the secondary recovery methods.

Merger of Foreign Companies with IOC after Take over

51. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the take-over of the foreign Oil Companies operating in the country, Government have taken or intend taking steps to merge them with the Indian Oil Company to achieve efficiency and economy and avoid costly and wasteful over heads; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (b). After all the existing oil companies have come into the public sector, restructuring of the oil industry may become necessary in order to ensure optimum utilisation of the existing facilities and to maintain a high standard of service to the consumers. A final view would be taken after the negotiations with Caltex and Assam Oil Company are completed.

Finding of Oil near Bombay

52. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil has been found in some more wells near Bombay; and

(b) whether prospects of striking oil have brightened in this belt?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (b). Oil has been found in a well on the 'fault' structure between the Bombay High and the Bassein field. Indications of oil have also been obtained in a structure southwest of Bombay High. It is therefore reason-