

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-