

**Commercial Exploitation of Crude from Bombay High**

113. SHRI N. K. SANGHI:  
SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD  
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features about the quality and quantity of crude from Bombay High that will be marketed during the next six months; and

(b) whether in addition to crude, lot of gas is also available from this source and if so, how is it being utilised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) Bombay High crude is of high quality with API gravity of 38.1 to 38.4 and has 60 per cent light and middle distillates. It is free from sulphur. During the next 6 months about 0.5 million tonnes of crude oil is expected to be produced and marketed from Bombay High Court.

(b) The present potential for production of associated gas is about 1,50,000 cubic metres per day. Some quantity of it is utilised offshore for generating power for the production platform operations and the rest flared.

**Railways surplus for developmental activities**

114. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the surplus that will be created for the Railways for 1976-77;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) whether the surplus would be adequate enough to undertake developmental activities and if not, the steps Government propose to take to better the financial position of the

Railways for their working and development?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). The Railway Budget for 1976-77 approved by the Parliament in March, 1976, envisages a surplus of Rs. 8.98 crores. This surplus is not adequate to fully finance the estimated expenditure of Rs. 17.50 crores chargeable to Development Fund in 1976-77. The balance requirement of funds would be met by obtaining a loan from General Revenues as anticipated in the Budget. Earnings during the 1st three months of the current year show a satisfactory trend but it is too early to assess precisely the financial results for the year. Steps are continuously being taken to increase earnings and to control expenditure so as to improve the financial position of the Railways.

**Decline in production of Hostalen**

115. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Hostalen, a high density polyethylene, has gone down in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to increase its production?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) The production of HDPE in 1975 was lower by about 1,600 tonnes compared to 1974. Production during first half of 1976 is lower, on prorata basis, than full year production in 1975.

(b) The reasons for lower production are