

in between the aforesaid two areas are in progress.

(c) It is too early to say when drilling will start. This will largely depend upon the results of seismic surveys which are still to be undertaken.

#### PROMOTION OF SECTIONAL OFFICERS (CIVIL)

73. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM : Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Sectional Officers (Civil) recruited in June and September, 1954 were promoted in 1964 and 1966 respectively and those recruited in October, 1954 and afterwards are still awaiting their promotions ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that reserving vacancies for the direct recruits and posting them by curtailing their period training will deprive the chances of promotion of the eligible experienced Sectional Officers ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to consider the cases of those officers for promotion who are in service for a period of more than 12 to 14 years ; and

(d) whether Government propose also to discontinue the practice of filling up vacancies by direct recruitment ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE (MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) :

(a) It is a fact that so far the Departmental Promotion Committees have taken into consideration, for purposes of promotion, Sectional Officers appointed up to September 1954 only.

(b) Reservation of vacancies for direct recruits is provided for under Government orders. Curtailment of training is resorted to only when exigencies of service so demand. It would not, therefore, be correct to say that these factors would deprive the chances of promotion of experienced Sectional Officers to an appreciable extent.

(c) The cases of all the Sectional Officers coming within the zone of consideration will be considered by the Departmental Promotion Committee when it meets for making the select list for promotion.

(d) No.

#### PAYMENT OF HOTEL BILLS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE

74. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make it obligatory on the part of the tourists to pay their hotel bills in foreign exchange with a view to avoid fraudulent transactions ;

(b) if so, when the scheme is likely to be implemented ; and

(c) the expected foreign exchange to be saved on the introduction of the scheme ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) to (c). Such a proposal is under consideration.

#### CENTRAL EXCISE AND CUSTOMS, COLLECTORATE, DELHI

75. SHRI LATAFAT ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any more records missing from any office/Branch/Section/Unit in the jurisdiction of the Central Excise and Customs Collectorate, Delhi excepting those which are kept in the box which was stolen from the office of the Collector of Central Excise and Customs, Delhi, on the night of the 20th February, 1968 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any disciplinary action has been taken against those who are responsible for the loss of records ; and

(d) the procedure adopted for fixing responsibility for the loss of records ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) No, Sir. After the theft on the night of 20th February, 1968, no incident of loss of files has come to the notice of the Collector of Central Excise, Delhi.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Whenever any loss of records comes to notice an enquiry is held to fix responsibility for the loss and depending on the