

indicated the presence of sedimentary sequence and there is scope for further oil research in this area;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to start drilling in this area; and

(d) if so, the broad features thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA):** (a) to (d). The geological and geophysical studies carried out have indicated that the onland parts of the coastal belt of Kerala have a sedimentary sequence with a total thickness of about 200 metres of Miocene rocks overlying directly the basement. The relatively small thickness of sediments minimise the prospects for oil in the onland part of the coastal belt of Kerala.

So far as the Continental Shelf off the Kerala coast is concerned, the results of the surveys conducted so far have not indicated good sedimentary deposits except towards the deeper portions of the Continental Shelf. ONGC has plans to conduct further seismic surveys in this area and the possibility of drilling there would depend on the results of these further seismic surveys.

#### **Enquiries against Cement Factories**

\*767. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) what is Government's share in Tata's cement factories, Birla's cement factories and Dalmia Jain's cement factories, in India at present; and

(b) how many cement factories of the above mentioned industrial houses are facing enquiries under M.R.T.P. Act and the Companies Act?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDA-BARATA BARUA):** (a) According to available information, the Central Government does not have any share in the Cement factories of the Industrial Houses referred to.

(b) No inquiry under the M.R.T.P. Act has been instituted against any such cement company so far. As regards the Companies Act, only in two cases, namely M/s. Birla Jute Mfg. Co., Ltd., Calcutta and M/s. Ashoka Cement Ltd., Dalmia Nagar (Bihar) investigation has been ordered under section 235(c) and section 237(b) respectively of the Act.

#### **Diesel Engines for Railways**

\*768. **SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering of having only diesel engines for hauling all the trains; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Decision taken on Recommendations of Hathi Committee**

\*769. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:**

**DR. RANEN SEN:**

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the latest position in regard to the decisions taken and action proposed on various recommendations made by Hathi Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals?