

Agreement reached by OPEC to control Price discounts

*270. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that oil-exporting nations have reached an agreement very recently to control price discounts that have marginally lowered the cost of some types of petroleum,

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement,

(c) the countries which had participated in the said OPEC meeting, and

(d) what benefit will be derived by India from that agreement?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K D MALAVIYA) (a) According to our information, a meeting of OPEC Oil Ministers had been convened on December 20, 1975 in Vienna to discuss quality differentials in oil pricing

Before any decision could be arrived at on differentials, the meeting was cut short by an attack leading to the hijacking and subsequent release of several OPEC Oil Ministers

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Enquiries pending under Section 10 of M.R.T.P Act

*271 SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) how many enquiries are pending before the MRTP Commission under Section 10 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act; and

(b) on what basis such enquiries were initiated and for how long the same have been pending?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) (a) As on 31-12-1975 110 inquiries instituted under section 10 of the MRTP Act, 1969 were pending before the MRTP Commission.

(b) Inquiries are instituted by the Commission in the circumstances mentioned in sub-clauses (i) to (iv) of clause (a), or in clause (b) of section 10 of the Act, to which attention is invited. Of the pending inquiries 4 relate to those instituted in the year 1972, 5 to 1973, 7 to 1974 and the remaining 84 to 1975

Re-instatement of Employees on South Eastern Railway

*274 SHRI D K PANDA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of employees in the South Eastern Railway who are not yet reinstated though the Police cases in connection with the last Railway strike have been disposed of in their favour, and

(b) what measures are contemplated to be taken with regard to their reinstatement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) (a) Nil

(b) Does not arise

Oil Exploration in Bombay High Area

*275 SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state

(a) the number of offshore drilling platforms in operation and likely to be in operation in Bombay High area; and

(b) the number and names of offshore exploration vessels now in commission and likely to be commissioned?