

Off-Shore Exploitation in Saurashtra and Kutch Areas

*122. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1306 on 24th August, 1976 regarding oil exploration around Bay of Cambay and state:

(a) whether off-shore exploration in the Saurashtra and Kutch areas has yielded any promising result from one exploratory well;

(b) if so, whether a decision for further exploration in the area has been taken; and

(c) the number of wells proposed to be drilled and the prospects thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). No decision for further exploration in Kutch offshore has yet been taken.

Train Facilities

*123. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inquiry is being made or is proposed to be made into the attempts made by previous Government to flood certain places with more and more train facilities giving little notice to other important places; and

(b) whether any rescheduling of trains and providing train facilities in other important areas including backward areas is likely to be done in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) No such inquiry has been made so far.

(b) The demands for introduction of additional trains including those in

backward areas will be considered having regard to traffic justification and availability of requisite resources.

Commission Bearers working in Dining Cars

*124. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the commission bearers working in dining cars have no channel of promotion/absorption to regular IV cadre; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to improve the working conditions, wages and promotional opportunities of this category of railway workers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) The commission bearers working in dining cars have no channel of promotion. However, they have the opportunities for absorption to regular class IV cadres.

(b) The service conditions, wages and promotional opportunities are under constant review.

Maruti Limited

*130. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maruti Limited is in or proposes to go into liquidation;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any action is contemplated against its Directors and other officers?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN):

(a) and (b). No notice of any winding up petition has been served on the Registrar of Companies, Delhi regarding M/s. Maruti Limited. Govern-

ment are aware from newspaper reports that winding up proceedings are pending before the High Court of Judicature Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh, the details of which are not known.

(c) The question of taking any action against the directors and other officers will be considered by the Official Liquidator attached to the High Court, when the winding up is ordered by the High Court.

Delay in Drilling by American Companies in Kutch and W. Bengal

*133. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry informed the American companies to start oil drilling in the Kutch Region of Gujarat and in West Bengal;

(b) whether a contract between India and two American companies was signed earlier for 24 years from November 1, 1975 onwards but they could not implement the same; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in starting the drilling for oil?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) to (c). Contracts were awarded in April 1974 to Carlsberg India Group of USA for offshore exploration of the continental shelf off the coast of West Bengal and a portion of Orissa and to Reading and Bates Group of USA for the offshore exploration of the continental shelf in the Kutch Basin. The contracts are for periods of 27 and 24 years respectively. The effective date of these contracts was 1st August, 1974. Under the contract, the Carlsberg Group had to complete seismic survey, relinquish all but 5000 square kilometres, drill two wells and spend a minimum of \$5 million in the Exploration Phase I comprising 3 years from the effective

date. Similarly, Reading and Bates Group had to complete seismic survey, relinquish all but 5000 sq. kilometres, drill one well and spend a minimum of \$2.5 million in Exploration Phase I comprising 3 years from the effective date. Both the contractors have fulfilled the obligations imposed on them by the contracts and have in fact spent \$ 17.99 million and \$ 11.83 million respectively. The Contractors have to intimate before the end of June, 1977 whether or not they elect to proceed with Exploration Phase II of two years commencing from 1-8-1977.

Survey for off-shore drilling in Arabian Sea

*134. SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has since been conducted recently by Government for off-shore drilling in the Arabian Sea near Cochin; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the survey conducted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase made by the Ministry from Companies having interest of Erstwhile Prime Minister

*136. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) value and details of purchases made/or/and value of purchases contemplated by his Ministry during 25-6-75 to 25-3-77 from companies in which the son/sons and other family members erstwhile Prime Minister