

(b) and (c). All the recommendations of the Hathi Committee are under the active consideration of Government and a final decision is expected to be taken very soon.

Drilling Operations in North-Eastern Zone

*290. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any proposal for drilling operations in the North-Eastern zone;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when drilling operations are likely to start, and

(d) whether any feasibility survey in the area for the purpose has been done, if so, with what results?

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

(a) to (d). The Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited are already carrying out the drilling operations in the North-Eastern Zone. The ONGC has so far drilled 301 wells in Assam including Meghalaya, 3 wells in Nagaland and 1 well in Tripura. Oil India Limited, has also drilled 383 wells in its area.

Exploratory efforts of the ONGC so far have led to the discovery of hydrocarbons at a number of structures, namely, at Rudrasagar, Lakwa-Lakhmani, Geleki, Borholla, Charali, Amguri and Demulgaon and Baramura. Regular production from Rudrasagar, Lakwa-Lakhmani and Geleki fields has been commenced by the ONGC and it is presently producing about 1.42 million tonnes per annum of crude oil from there. Oil India Limited is also producing about 3.1 million tonnes per annum of crude oil from its fields in Assam area.

Both the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited are continuing their efforts for further

exploration in the area. 12 wells are currently under drilling by the ONGC. Some of the new locations being taken up for drilling by the ONGC in 1978-79 in the North-Eastern area are Barsilla, Tiru Hills, Laxmijan, Charaideq and Meainpur in Assam and Rokhia and Gofalia in Tripura. Oil India Limited is presently drilling a deep exploratory well at Kunchai and is also planning to drill 5 more wells in Arunachal Pradesh.

On the basis of the surveys carried out so far, the area is considered to have good prospects for finding additional hydrocarbons reserves.

Demand for Polyester Filament Yarn

*291. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for the Polyester Filament yarn is very high and its production has been inadequate;

(b) if so, the figures of demand and production for the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the demand and make it available to the actual users?

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

(a) The demand for polyester filament yarn has in the past been higher than the indigenous production. The production figures are as below:

Year	Qty (tonnes)
1975	2529
1976	2640
1977	3732

As REP imports of polyester filament yarn are permitted, the exact levels of consumption are not known, but have been estimated at around 4,000 tonnes, 4,000 tonnes and 6,000 to 7,000 tonnes in the years 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78 respectively.

(b) and (c). The item has been placed at para 90 of the ITC Book, Vol. I, for the year 1977-78 where under direct allotment is made to the actual users to meet their full requirements. Indigenous capacity totalling 2,616 tonnes has been established by permitting indigenous manufacturers of nylon filament yarn to diversify into polyester filament yarn. An additional 2085 tonnes capacity is under implementation through diversification and modernisation programmes. A cooperative sector project with substantial Government participation, M/s. Petrofils Cooperative Ltd., is in the process of setting up a 3,500 tonnes plant for manufacture of polyester filament yarn. Part of the capacity has already been commissioned and production has commenced.

Casual Gangmen brought on Central Pay Commission Scales

*292. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pay Commission scales have been given to all casual Gangmen on completion of 120 days' continuous work since June, 1977 in Dhanbad Division, E. Railway;

(b) if so, the figures of such casual Gangmen under each Permanent way Inspector of Dhanbad Division who have been given C.P.C. scales;

(c) the number of such Casual Gangmen who have not yet been given C.P.C. scales; and

(d) the reasons for abnormal delay in giving C.P.C. scales?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS: (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). 129 casual Gangmen of Dhanbad Division have been granted CPC scales of pay. The break-up of this number is as follows:

P.W.I. Dhanbad	..	42
P.W.I. Patratu	...	11

P.W.I. Gujhandi	...	88
P.W.I. Barma	...	2
P.W.I. Daltonganj	...	2
P.W.I. Latehar	...	2
P.W.I. Tori	...	1

(c) 496.

(d) As per extant practice on Eastern Railway, casual Gangmen are to be medically examined and granted CPC scales of pay on completion of 120 days' continuous service. However, since Divisional authorities were not clear about this position and were waiting for the medical examination to be over, orders have been issued to them to grant forthwith scales of pay to all casual Gangmen who have completed 120 days' continuous service.

Railway Line between Tirodi and Katangi

*293. SHRI KACHARULAL HEMRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the survey for laying railway line between Tirodi-Katangi in District Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh was undertaken;

(b) whether a decision was taken to lay the railway line between Tirodi and Katangi;

(c) the work, so far, done on this project; and

(d) the reasons for delay in implementing this decision and when work is likely to commence on this line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (d). No survey has so far been carried out for laying a railway line between Tirodi and Katangi. The question of construction of this line will be considered while taking a decision regarding conversion of the Gondia-Jabalpur narrow gauge section into broad gauge after the survey of the Gondia-Jabalpur section is completed.