

extremely sophisticated nature involving telemetry, data processing equipment, system diagram board, load frequency control equipment and other ancillary equipment. As these were being installed in the country almost for the first time and required a high degree of expertise, it has taken some time for the Central Electricity Authority, with the assistance of expert consultants to frame the specifications which have been approved by the IDA. The procurement of equipment for these regional load despatch centres has to be done on the basis of global tenders in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the World Bank. The approval of the IDA has been received in respect of the recommendations for the placement of orders for Northern Regional Electricity Board which will now need necessary approvals in the government. The recommendations of the CEA in respect of equipment for the Western Regional Electricity Board and Eastern Regional Electricity Board have been sent to IDA for approval.

As a first step towards establishment of regional load despatch centres, interim load despatch centres have been established in the various regions. The interim regional load despatch centres have assisted in the operation of power systems on a regional basis with consequent benefits such as maintaining common spinning reserve, preparation of maintenance schedule for generation units and trunk transmission lines on a regional basis. The interim load despatch centres have helped in providing emergency assistance and in the sharing of surplus power in the region. In the Southern Region a permanent Regional Load Despatch Centre has been established with modern telemetry equipment under the IDA Credit. Thus, integrated operation of regional systems is already existing and further equipment to be financed under IDA would add to the sophistication and efficiency of the operations.

(c) Does not arise.

Removal of Dr. G. Ramaswamy from service

*33 SHRI K MALLANNA
SHRI SHANKERSINHJI
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr G Ramaswamy, Member of Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has been recently removed from service; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It came to the notice of the Government that while camping at London, Dr G Ramaswamy, Member (Offshore), Oil and Natural Gas Commission addressed a letter to a foreign government with which he enclosed a copy of the letter written by him to the Chairman of Multinational Oil Company. In the letter Dr Ramaswamy adversely commented on the performance of the World Bank in the matter of financing exploration risk ventures of oil importing developing countries. In particular, he commented that regarding exploration risk financing, the application of the policy of the World Bank is pursued wrongly. As an instance, he asked why the World Bank is so keen to take up a project in India for offshore exploration in which other Multinational Companies have shown interest. Dr. Ramaswamy thus worked against the flow of World Bank assistance to India in the field of oil and gas resources and directly violated the policy of the Government of India of which policy he as a member of the ONGC was fully aware at the relevant time. This correspondence with a foreign multinational oil company and a foreign government was made without the knowledge or authorisation of the ONGC or of the Government on such

a matter of high policy on which Government have already taken decisions, constitutes an act prejudicial to the interests of the ONGC and of the country and grave misconduct on his part. Dr. Ramaswamy's appointment as a Member of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission was thereupon terminated and he was removed from the office of Member ONGC on account of his failure to carry out his duties satisfactorily in terms of the proviso to Section 5(1) of the ONGC Act, 1959 read with Rule 7(b) of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Rules, 1960.

Price of Petrol and Petroleum Products

*34. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:
SHRI V. ARUNACHALAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how much price of petrol and petroleum products has been increased in the last two years;

(b) whether Government propose to make any further price increase in the aforesaid products; and

(c) what will be the financial implications if no further price increase is made?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. The increases have been due to revision of excise duties.

(b) Various proposals are under consideration of the Government to meet the situation arising out of the recent decisions of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to increase the prices of imported crude oil and the consequent increases in the prices of deficit imported petroleum products.

(c) According to current estimates of crude oil and products during 1979-80, the extra burden on the oil industry as a result of the OPEC decisions, as on date would be about Rs. 1200 crores compared to the rates as on 31st December, 1978 for the import of same quantities.