

occurred but was quickly controlled. Fishing operations are continuing and the present depth of these operations is 3147 metres.

(b) Exploration in the Godavari basin is in the initial stage. Therefore production of hydrocarbon can not be assessed at this stage. Every effort is being made to expedite exploration.

(c) Yes, Sir. The ONGC has already intensified exploration in both the on-shore and off-shore area. Currently three rigs—two in the on-shore and one in the off-shore area are engaged in exploratory drilling in the area. A fourth rig is proposed to be added for exploratory drilling in the latter part of this year.

Off-shore drill Ships for Krishna basin.

639. SHRI B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SEDCO an off-shore drill ship which is meant for drilling deep water prospects has been deployed to drill a very shallow prospect in the off-shore Krishna Basin; and

(b) what is the strategy for off-shore drilling for Godavari Krishna Basin?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir. The prospect in which drilling is in progress is in a water depth of 115 metres which compares with a water depth of only about 75 metres in the Bombay High and less than this in the Palk Bay.

(b) During the Sixth Five Year Plan period upto March, 1985, ten deep water exploratory and five shallow water exploratory wells are envisaged to be drilled in the Krishna Godavari Off-shore basin.

World Bank Loan for on-shore and off-shore oil exploration in Godavari-Krishna Basin

640. SHRI B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has offered a loan to expedite exploration and exploitation of oil and gas from on-shore and off-shore Godavari Krishna Basin in view of their own assessment of the high oil potential in this region; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to expedite this agreement so that oil and gas production in the east coast can be started at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) A proposal for World Bank loan to meet part of the exploration costs in the Krishna-Godavari basin has been presented. All necessary information and clarifications have been furnished and the Bank is at present processing the project for negotiations in early May, 1982 and for Board presentation in June, 1982.

No work of exploration is held up for want of a loan from the Bank. Surveys and drilling are going on both on-shore and off-shore in this basin.

Controlling of on-shore and off-shore operation in Godavari Basin

641. SHRI B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the regional offices at Bombay and Madras are controlling on-shore and off-shore operations in Godavari Basin; and

(b) whether it will not be operationally more convenient to expedite exploration by having a regional office in one of the cities in Andhra Pradesh nearer to the place of exploration?