

occurred but was quickly controlled, wishing 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.

OR-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 Offshore" basin.

World Bank Loan for on-shore and offshore 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?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) A forward base in Madras is controlling the onshore and off-shore operations in the Godavari basin as well as the Cauvery basin under the overall control of the Bombay Offshore Project in Bombay. There is no regional office in Madras.

(b) Exploratory drilling in the Godavari basin on-land is presently directly controlled by the project headquarters located in Rajamundry in Andhra Pradesh. The forward base in Madras directly controls off-shore exploration in the Godavari basin. It supervises exploration for both the Krishna-Godavari basin as well as the Cauvery basin. In view of this it will not be more convenient operationally to locate a regional office in one of the cities in Andhra Pradesh as the Cauvery basin South of Madras is also supervised by the forward base.

Production of Ration cards for issue of gas connection by dealers

642. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARDWAJ:

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that while issuing a new cooking gas connection the dealers insist on production of ration cards;

(b) whether it is the discretion of the dealer to see the ration card or not to see the ration card;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the dealers while giving new gas connections insist on the purchase of the burner from their shops only who have fixed the price of burners higher than that prevailing in the market; and

(d) if the answer to parts (b) and (c) is in the affirmative, what strict instructions have been issued to the dealers to follow and the measures

that have been taken to ensure that these instructions are strictly followed by the dealers and the customers are not unnecessarily harassed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The oil companies have issued instructions to their LPG (cooking gas) dealers to check the ration card of the prospective customer at the time of releasing a new LPG connection, to verify his identity and address and to ensure that he does not already have an LPG connection in his name.

(c) No, Sir. However the oil companies have been instructed by the oil companies not to force their customers to buy LPG stoves only from them and to display a board at their premises that they are free to buy the stoves from any place of their choice.

(d) Does not arise.

Shortfall in the production of oil from Bombay High

643. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a considerable shortfall in the production of oil from Bombay High during 1981-82;

(b) whether the slippage in production is attributed to late commissioning of platforms among other reasons;

(c) whether new platforms are to be added during 1982-83; and

(d) if so, what are their numbers and the target of production fixed for this year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) The Sixth Plan target fixed for oil production during 1981-82 was 8.40 million tonnes and the actual production was 7.975 million tonnes. The slight shortfall in the crude oil production during the year 1981-82 was due to the late