

the number of vacancies that have arisen or are expected to arise in the High Courts is 15. The figure for the Supreme Court for the same period is 3.

#### Film on Mahatma Gandhi

121. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY;

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM;

SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN;

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM;

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA;

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the criticism made by the film artistes and others connected with Indian Film-World about the production of film on 'Mahatma Gandhi' by Sir Richard Attenborough;

(b) whether Government have received any appeal and memoranda in this regard;

(c) whether the National Film Development Corporation proposes to contribute Rs. 5 crores as its share in the production despite all this criticism; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (MISS. KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposed film uses, as its context, Mahatma Gandhi's statement 'My Life is My Message'. It is fundamentally telling, as much as may be possible within three hours, the story of Gandhiji's life. It also attempts to convey something of the philosophies, the humanity, the compassion and the integrity of India to the world at large. The film is also expected to generate a considerable goodwill for India in the world. It

was felt that a production of this type would be a great tribute to the Mahatma. Government therefore reacted favourably to the proposal of Sir Richard Attenborough to produce the film in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation, who, as a co-producer; will invest Rs. 5 crores in the project

#### Supply of crude oil and other petroleum products by Russia and Bulgaria

122. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI;

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD;

SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH

HANSPAL;

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

(a) whether Russia, Bulgaria and other countries have promised to supply crude oil and other petroleum products to help India meet the short-supply that is likely to accrue to India owing to Iraq-Iran conflict; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) the extent to which the supplies have been promised by each of these countries;

(c) the quantity each of these countries have supplied so far and promised to supply during the months of November and December this year; and

(d) what is the total quantity of crude oil obtained by India during the months of September and October, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (d) In order to make up the shortfall caused in the supply of imported crude oil, we have approached a number of countries including USSR and Bulgaria. Whereas some have made firm commitments, response from others is awaited. It would not be in national interest to divulge further details.