

**Drilling of off-Shore well in
Mahanadi Basin**

*17. SHRI DHANESHWAR

MAJHI:

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD

NANDA:

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA

MALLICK:

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

(a) the number of exploratory drillings undertaken during the period from the 1st January, 1977 to the 31st October, 1978 and the areas where the exploratory drilling was undertaken;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for starting the work of spudding the first off-shore well in Mahanadi Basin by the Oil India; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA). (a) Oil India Limited undertook drilling of 4 exploratory wells during this period, one each at Manabum and Kumchai and two in Moran area. Information regarding ONGC is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. O.I.L. is working on a plan to spud in its first off-shore well sometime during 1979.

Casual Workers and Commission bearers on the Central Railways.

*18. SHRI LAKSHMANA

MAHAPATRO:

SHRIMATI PRATIMA

BOSE:

SHRI JAHARLAL

BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bearer employed on Commission basis and casual workers in the catering as well as other Departments in different Zonal Railways and other Railway Establishments, who have been absorbed in regular Class IV service during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of such employees, establishment-wise, still awaiting absorption;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in their absorption on a regular basis; and

(d) by when all such casual employees are likely to be absorbed in regular service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Orders were issued in April 1978 to absorb 1012 Commission Bearers in regular Class IV service. The target date for this is 31.12.1978.

About 24,000 casual labour/substitutes have been absorbed on regular basis on the Indian Railways during the last three years.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Though every effort is being made to absorb on regular basis as many casual labours/substitutes/Commission bearers as possible, their absorption depends upon the availability of regular vacancies. No time limit can, therefore, be laid down for the purpose, except in the case of 1012 Commission Bearers, as mentioned in answer to part (a) of the question.