

400. [Transferred to the 26th May, 1976].

Oil exploration in Rajasthan

401. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has undertaken an oil exploration programme in different locations in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what are the results of the exploration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Except for a small gas find at Manhera Tibba, which was not of commercial significance, no hydrocarbons have so far been found in Rajasthan. Oil exploration is still in progress in that State.

Fair price shops for Railway employees

402. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places/localities where Fair Price Shops for Railway employees have been opened; and

(b) whether these shops are being run departmentally or through cooperative societies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) According to extant policy, Fair Price Shops are provided at places where there is a concentration of 300 or more Railway employees. As on 31-3-1976, 1318 Fair Price Shops were available for distribution of essential commodities to Railway employees and their families.

(b) Out of 1318 Fair Price Shops, 419 are run by Railwaymen's Consumer Co-operative Societies and the balance by State-authorised dealers.

Appointment of distinguished jurists as Judges of the Supreme Court

403. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to appoint distinguished jurists as Judges of the Supreme Court of India as envisaged in the Constitution of India; and

(b) if no, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court is made by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, who can suggest a name, including that of a distinguished jurist. When making appointment provisions of Article 124 (3) are kept in view and effort is made to select the best persons possible. Presently, no proposal for appointment of a Judge in the Supreme Court is under consideration.

Contract for manufacture of streptomycin

404. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. has recently signed a contract for the import of technology for improving the strains for the manufacture of streptomycin- and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the name of the foreign collaborator and the amount to be spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) M/s. HAL, Pimpri, Poona entered into an agreement with M/s. Glaxo Laboratories of U. K. in November, 1973, whereunder