

provided the element of direct recruitment if any does not exceed to 5 per cent;

(b) whether above provisions are applicable to all the categories:

(e) if so, how many SC/ST Railway Employees have been promoted in Executive, Commercial, Operating, Transportation, Accounts, Printing Press, Workshops, Construction, Engineering, Medical Mechanical workshop. Stores and Loco's of Indian Railways during 1973-74, 1974-75 Zone-wise separately in all categories regarding from Class IV to Class I on the basis of (A) Departmental Examination ; (B) By selections ; (C) on the basis of seniority-cum-suitability;

(d) whether there is any shortfall; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, where the element of direct recruitment does not exceed 50 per cent,

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Conversion of 75 LB rail line into 90 LB rail line

816. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Badam-pahar-Onlajori section of the railways in Orissa is not strong enough to carry box rakes as 75 LB rails have been laid on this track;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in view of the fact that M. M. T. C. has intended its willingness to resume iron ore mining activity in this area would his Ministry substitute the above mentioned track by 90 LB rails and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Letter from an V.I.P. regarding oil exploration in Orissa

817. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he has received a letter from an M. P. dated 15th January, 1975 regarding oil exploration in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the seismic survey vessel is expected to arrive in Indian waters to enable the ONGC to take to exploration drilling in the continental shelf off Orissa and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The letter was about oil exploration in Orissa Coast particularly near Chilka Lake. In the letter, reference was also made to an Article in a CSIR Journal about oil deposits near Chilka Lake in Orissa. Oil Exploration work done so far in Orissa including in the coastal districts has not indicated the presence of any sizeable structure suitable for exploratory drilling. According to the ONGC the place referred to in the article viz. near Chilka Lake is of no interest from the point of oil accumulation.

(c) As per present indications the ONGC seismic survey vessel named 'An-weshak' is expected to arrive in Indian waters around India, 1975. The off shore areas off the Orissa Coast, not covered by the oil exploration contract awarded to Carlsberg—Natomas Group for the West Bengal—Orissa basin, are planned to be surveyed by ONGC during the Fifth Five Year Plan. Exploratory drilling will depend on the results of the data to be obtained from these surveys.