

business. For disposal of immovable assets only, Reserve Bank of India's clearance is required under (the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. Burmah-Shell has intimated that the sale proceeds from the disposal of assets amounted to Rs. 1.08 crores in 1973 and the appropriate procedures for disposal of immovable assets are being adhered to. The Reserve Bank of India have been requested by the Government to check the position.

Production of crude from Bombay High

783. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the commercial production of crude from Bombay High is expected;

(b) how much amount is likely to be spent on the project;

(c) whether foreign exchange will also be required either for spare parts or original machinery installed at the site; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) Two wells drilled in the Bombay High structure, have indicated the presence of hydrocarbons. Presently, the testing of the second well is in progress. It is only after completing the tests and evaluating the results, and if necessary by drilling another well at a distance that the ONGC can take up the question of commercial production from this structure.

(b) to (d) During 1974-75, the expenditure on this project is likely to be about Rs. 13.29 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 7.82 crores.

Passenger traffic at Howrah Station

784. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : SHRI N. R. CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that though less number of passengers left Howrah station during Puja season this year, the daily income remained the same because of increase in the fares and Railway has become more interested in carrying goods than passenger traffic;

(b) whether it is also a fact that though official figure of passengers during these days showed a declining trend but in practice more people travelled out of Howrah station and some employees of Railways had minted money thereby depriving Government its due share of earning; and

(c) whether Government propose to ascertain whether the "Conductor Guard" on duty in one II Class 3-tier compartment of 81-UP Howrah to New Delhi (Vestibule) on 17-10-1974 has collected more than Rs. 300 from unauthorised passengers in front of wife of one of the M.P.'s travelling in that compartment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH) : (a) It is a fact that during the Puja season this year the number of passengers booked from Howrah station was slightly less than the number of passengers booked during the Puja season of 1973, but the earnings from these passengers in 1974 were comparatively more. It is the endeavour of the Railways to carry the passenger traffic as offering as also the goods traffic

(b) No.

(c) No information has been received in this regard. If, however, complete details are made available, the matter will be investigated.