

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

1166. [Transferred to 18r/i December 1974.]

Reversion of railway staff at Izatnagar Divisions

1167. SHRI J. S. TTLAK :

SHRI M. KADERSHAH :

SHRI D. K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ward-keepers, store-keepers and senior clerks working in the Office of the District Controller of Stores, N.E. Railway, Izatnagar Division, have made representations against their sudden reversions to lower posts in the month of July 1974;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the representations which were addressed to the Controller of Stores (P) N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur have not been forwarded by the District Controller of Stores, N.E. Railway, Izatnagar even after several reminders from Controller of Stores (P) Gorakhpur;

(c) if so, the number of representations, categorywise and the action taken by Divisional and Zonal officers thereon; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the employees concerned ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Concession to non-striking railway employees

1168. SHRI M. KADERSHAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dependents of Railway employees appointed to various posts in various railway zones so far in pursuance of Government's assurance to loyal workers who did not join the last May strike; and

(b) the number of applications pending with Railways, zonewise, for such appointments ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Offshore drilling

1169. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently formulated any comprehensive plan for off-shore drilling;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) by when it is expected to start; and

(d) what is Government's estimate of oil to be explored as a result of off-shore drilling ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI) : (a) to (d) ONGC has been drilling in the Bombay High Offshore area with the help of its jack-up drilling platform "Sagar Samrat". Oil has been struck in the Bombay High structure and pending complete delineation and full development of this field. ONGC is examining the feasibility of setting up the first stage of production of 1 million tonnes per annum by mid-1976. To accelerate the pace of drilling, ONGC has been authorised to hire a drilling vessel to begin with and also take steps to acquire two more drilling vessels, thus increasing its off-shore drilling fleet to three. Un'til some further wells are drilled, it would not be possible to give a correct estimate about the full potential of the Bombay High Structure.

During May 1974, two contracts were signed with foreign Oil Companies for exploration and production in the Bengal and Kutch offshore Basins. No well has yet been drilled in these two offshore Basins.

Connecting of satellite towns in the capital region

1170. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to connect satellite towns in the Delhi capital region by means of fast passenger trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what services are at present available to commuters passengers coming to the capital from these towns ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 86 trains including local shuttles and some long distance trains carrying commuters are presently in operation in Delhi area.