

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Agreement with Rumania for oil exploration**

**\*28. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR : SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :**

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

(a) whether an agreement has recently been signed between the Government of India and Rumania to form a Company for oil exploration in West Asia and North Africa ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement ?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) :** (a) and (b) Both India and Rumania have agreed in principle to examine the possibility of collaborating jointly in oil exploration and exploitation in third countries but no proposals for co-operation in any third country have so far emerged.

#### **Fire in Refinery at Trombay**

**\*29. SHRI INDER DEEP SINHA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several thousand litres of crude oil was destroyed

in a fire in the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Refinery at Trombay on 22nd October, 1974 ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the loss and causes of the fire ?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) :** (a) and (b) One of the tanks in the premises of the Hindustan Petroleum Refinery at Trombay was struck by lightning on the evening of 22nd October, 1974. As a result of this, a fire broken out in the tank. There was loss of about 256 tonnes of crude.

#### **Decline in earnings by Railways**

**\*30. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the revenue earnings from the Railways have declined considerably during the last three months ;

(b) if so, the extent of decline in the earnings in comparison with the preceding three months ; and the reasons therefore ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make up the deficit that might increase as a result of decline in revenue earnings ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Drilling work in Himachal Pradesh**

**1. SHRI J. N. BHARDWAJ :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress so far made in the drilling work at Ramshahr in Solan District and Changer Talai in Bilaspur District in Himachal Pradesh ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b) Geological surveys of the area have led to the discovery and delineation of an anticlinal structure and on the basis of the surveys, two locations have been released for drilling. One of the locations is at Ramshahr in Solan District and the other at Changer Talai in Bilaspur District. The location at Ramshahr will be drilled upto 4000 metres to test the petroleum prospects of the structure. Drilling has not yet commenced at these locations.

#### Fire in Refinery at Trombay

2. SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, refinery at Trombay in North Bombay caught fire on 22nd October, 1974 ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the loss and causes of the fire ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b) One of the tanks in the premises of the Hindustan Petroleum Refinery at Trombay was struck by lightning on the evening of 22nd October, 1974. As a result of this, a fire broke out in the tank. There was loss of about 256 tonnes of crude. There was some damage to the tank also but the extent of damage to the tank can be determined after the tank is de-commissioned which will require some time.

#### Inspection of Delhi/New Delhi Railway Stations

3. SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Minister inspected the working of Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations in October, 1974 and noticed irregularities in the administration ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to curb the irregularities ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes. The Minister of State for Railways inspected New Delhi and Delhi Jn. Railway Stations on 25-10-1974 and necessary action is being taken to remove the deficiencies noticed.

#### Social and economic offences

4. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR :  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :  
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the action so far taken by Government on the major recommendations made by the Law Commission in its report on trial and punishment for Social and Economic Offences ; and

(b) the number of recommendations on which no action could be taken together with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) Recommendations of the Law Commission relating to the Customs Act, 1962, Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 and Gold (Control) Act, 1968 as were acceptable to the Government have been implemented through the Customs, Gold (Control) and Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Act, 1973 (Act 36 of 1973). Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 1974 have implemented some other recommendations regarding these subjects. Necessary action to amend