

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) The main difficulty that is being faced today is not of the availability of crude oil in the world market but of the scarce foreign exchange resources to pay for the highly costly imports of petroleum. Import of crude oil from Iraq and Saudi Arabia will continue during 1975 also.

(b) There is no proposal for entering into barter deals with these countries. However various proposals of economic cooperation with these countries are being pursued.

(c) No, Sir.]

Setting up of a Committee on Price Structure of Wagons

413. SHRI M. P. VARMA :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any committee of experts has been set up by Government to recommend on equitable price structure for all current wagons and consider extending the existing escalation clause to include bought-out components;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of this Committee; and

(c) by when this committee is expected to give its report ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) A committee consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Industry & Civil Supplies and Wagon India (P) Ltd. has been appointed to examine the representations of the wagon industry for suitable revision of prices in the concluded contracts which are claimed to have become unremunerative.

(c) The committee is expected to submit its recommendations shortly.

†[] English translation.

Oil and Gas in the Eastern Region

414. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) what progress has been made so far to survey and make necessary arrangements for finding oil and gas in the eastern region, particularly West Bengal and Tripura and the details thereof;

(b) whether any big reservoir of oil in Galsi area in Burdwan District has been located;

(c) what is the total investment made so far in these areas in the search of petroleum during the last five years and the details thereof; and

(d) what additional investment Government propose to make in these areas for search of oil ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI) : (a) ONGC has conducted geological, seismic and gravity-cum-magnetic surveys in various parts of the Eastern Region. In the recent past, oil has been discovered in Cheerali, Amguri, and Borholla, Oil India's operations are limited to a few areas in parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from proving the extent and developing the resources of the oil fields at Nahorkatiya and Moran, OIL has also undertaken exploration operations in some areas both in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Exploratory work done so far, including drilling of certain exploratory wells in West Bengal has not resulted in any oil/gas find of commercial significance. Further work in this direction is continuing.

A few gas horizons have been encountered in the first well drilled at Baramura structure in Tripura. Additional wells are proposed to be drilled on this structure.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha,