

nery has, however, operated above its normal operating level of 2.75 million tonnes per annum (average of 2.3 lakh tonnes per month) during the first half of the year 1974. The allocation of crude to the HPC from August onwards will enable the refinery operations to be maintained at its normal operating level. The level of operation of various refineries in view of restricted availability of imported crude oil is under continuous examination of the Government keeping in view the product pattern in different refineries and the demand for products in different regions.

(c) There is no proposal presently under consideration of Government for expansion of the HPC's oil refinery at Bombay. The feasibility of expanding the Lube Refinery is being examined and this is not likely to be affected by the possible reduced level of operation of the HPC's oil refinery during this year.

Allocation of funds for oil exploration

*173. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :

SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :
SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-
VIYA :

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

(a) whether Government propose to allocate additional funds during the year 1974-75 for stepping up oil exploration in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) : (a) and (b) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission is stepping up its exploration activities. It is hoped that its exploration expenditure would be met from its internal resources. However, exploration activity will not be allowed to suffer for want of funds.

Signing of bonds against strike by Railway workers

*174. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the striking Railway workers were forced to sign bonds not to go on strike again at the time of payment of wages during the recent strike; and

(b) whether any legal opinion has been sought by Government regarding this course of action?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*175. [Transferred to the 7th August, 1974.]

Allotment of retail petrol pumps to Graduate Engineers

*176. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

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

(a) whether Government have allotted Indian Oil retail petrol pumps to graduate engineers under the self-employment schemes; and

(b) if so, the number of such pumps allotted and number of graduate engineers benefited uptill now and what other special facilities have been given to them under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Till May, 1974, 158 retail outlets have been allotted, out of which 137 have been commissioned benefiting 179 beneficiaries.