

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, we will charge fees for our consultancy service. The Indian Railways can offer consultancy services not only in regard to major traditional items but also in regard to operational and commercial aspects.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Sir, I want to know how many consultancy offers have we received so far. Secondly, I want to know whether in the setting up of this consultancy service are we going to enlist the services of Railway cadre officers or officers from other cadres also so as to make this consultancy service more fruitful?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, I stated that this consultancy service is in the process of formation. We have already given advice to various countries in Africa and in other areas. When this company is formed it shall be manned entirely by our own people.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Railway cadre officers only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not completed the answer. Let him complete.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, if there is talent outside the Railways also, we shall welcome it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you got the answer now?

SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANISHANKER JOSHI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to which are the countries and what is the scope and field of activity where this project can be made use of.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The scope of this company is very wide. It will design, establish, maintain and perform engineering, technical and consultancy services for the development of Railway projects. It will also provide engineering, technical and management consultancy services for commercial and other purposes. It will be a very broad based consultancy service.

Talks with the General Secretary, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

*240. SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:
SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:†
SHRI M. K. MOHTA:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:
SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA:
SHRI SHYAM LAL GUPTA:
SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:
SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHAN:
SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI K. C. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Government had talks with the General Secretary, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, on his recent visit to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the talks and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of supply of crude oil, the steep rise in its prices and the possible ways of meeting the situation were among the subjects discussed with the Secretary-General, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA: Sir, the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting countries was recently here to have talks with our hon.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Sushila Shankar Adivarekar.

Minister. I would like to know the details of discussions that the hon. Minister had with him and what kind of an agreement was arrived at. Will the hon. Minister kindly throw some light on the nature of these discussions and the results thereof?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Sir, the main subject of discussion with the Secretary-General of the OPEC was the problem of high prices of crude from the OPEC countries and its adverse effect on our economy and finances. Dr. Khan stated that they had to hike the price of oil because they had to buy a lot of things from developed countries which had become very expensive and they had also thought that crude was a limited resource and a wasting asset. Therefore they would like to get as much money as possible for the development of their countries because they themselves were developing countries. They quite appreciated our difficulties and suggested that some methods can be found so that the impact of these high prices on the economy of the developing countries can be cushioned off. His idea was that we should have bilateral agreement with these countries, that is, with the Arab countries, and see that we get better terms by way of deferred payments and also financial assistance for projects in this country. He also told us that the OPEC as an organisation is trying to build up a bank for giving assistance to the developing countries. He thought it will be delayed and therefore the more expeditious way of solving this problem would be to have bilateral talks with the various oil producing countries of the Gulf region.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Many of the problems which this country faces is common with the problems that other under-developed countries are facing in regard to the import of petroleum and petroleum products. May I know from the Government whether the proposal to hold a special session of the United Nations Assembly in order to discuss the problems created by this increase in the prices of petroleum products as well as the question of conserving the resources has been discussed with the Secretary-General and whether the oil exporting countries as a

whole have agreed to this proposal of holding a special session of the United Nations General Assembly?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Sir, When Dr. Khan was here he did not broach this subject but later we saw a statement issued by him to the effect that a session of the United Nations Assembly may be called to discuss this problem.

Report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices

241. SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:†

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have referred back the report of the Task Force on re-structuring the prices of 24 bulk drugs to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have requested the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices to recommend fair selling prices of the concerned bulk drugs taking into account the escalations in costs that have taken place since the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices formulated its report.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister in which year this reference was made.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Sumitra G. Kulkarni.