

To achieve this, the ONGC intends to drill about 1.337 million metres, and undertake 104 party-years of geological work and 152 party-years of geophysical work during this five-year period. During 1973-74, ONGC also intend to drill 99 wells of an aggregate depth of 204,470 metres and to produce 4.65 million tonnes of crude oil and 455 million cubic metres of gas.

The forward plans of the Oil India Limited are based on a seven-year plan cycle. During the period 1973 to 1979, it is drawing up a plan to drill about 60 wells, of which a substantial number will be exploration wells. During 1973, hopes to complete 11-12 wells. Throughout this period of 1973-1979, OIL intends to maintain a crude oil production rate of about 3 million tonnes per annum.

During 1973-74, whereas the estimated requirements crude oil in the country would be 22.4 million tonnes, the estimated availability of indigenous crude oil would be 7.79 million tonnes. Figures for the last year of the Fifth-Plan period are estimated to be about 43 million tonnes and 11 million tonnes respectively.

#### HALDIA FERTILIZER PROJECT

\*296. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:  
DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

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

(a) by when the Haldia Fertilizer Project is likely to be completed and commissioned;

(b) by when it is likely to enter production;

(c) whether Fertilizer Corporation of India has utilised the total foreign exchange meant for this project; and

(d) if not, how the balance was utilised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b) According

to present indications, the Haldia fertilizer project is expected to be completed by January 1976. Commercial production is expected to start within about six months thereafter.

(c) and (d) Against a foreign exchange of Rs. 25.70 crores released so far, the Corporation has placed orders to the tune of Rs. 16.58 crores. The balance amount is also expected to be utilised shortly.

#### DELTA SUNDARBANS PROJECT

\*297. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to approve the West Bengal Government's scheme of Delta Sundarbans project for protecting large area of land from saline water;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) by when the work on this project will begin?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) to (c) The Sundarbans Delta Project is a complex project of large magnitude intended to benefit in first phase 50,000 hectares through agricultural development and fisheries. So far only preliminary investigations have been carried out by the Government of West Bengal. Detailed investigations and preparation of a detailed project report by Government of West Bengal are on hand.

783. [Transferred to the 4th March, 1973.]

#### APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS FROM S.C./S.T. AS CHAIRMAN/MEMBER-SECRETARY OF RAILWAY SERVICE COMMISSION

785. SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any persons drawn from the Scheduled Castes and the