

EXPANSION OF REFINERIES BY FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES

30. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from foreign oil companies for the expansion of their refineries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) to (c) Only Burmah-Shell have proposed to discuss the question of substantial equity participation by Government or public in their refinery and marketing companies. Their offer is, inter alia, dependent upon expansion of their refinery capacity and their marketing operations. No final view has yet been taken in the matter and Burmah-Shell's proposal as also another proposal received from ESSO on 5th October, 1972 are under detailed scrutiny and consideration. A final view will be taken in the matter after this examination has been completed.

RETRENCHMENT OF EMPLOYEES BY FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES IN INDIA

31. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL:

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the three foreign oil companies in India i.e., Burmah-Shell, Caltex and ESSO have informed Government about the proposed retrenchment of over 1,000 employees employed in their installations in Eastern region alone on the plea of commissioning of Haldia Refinery; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to guarantee the security to such retrenched staff?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b) The foreign oil companies have represented that they would have a problem of staff redundancy at their Calcutta installations after the Haldia Refinery is commissioned. The problem is being studied and whatever action is feasible will be taken to mitigate hardship to such staff.

DAILY WAGE RATE OF CASUAL LABOUR IN BOMBAY

32 SHRI BAIACHANDRA MENON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the daily wage rate paid to the unskilled casual labour by the Central and Western Railways in Bombay area;

(b) the comparative wage rate paid to such category of labour in other industries in Bombay; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to revise the rate in view of the present high cost of living?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Central Railway—Rs. 3.50 Western Railway—Rs. 3.00.

(b) The rates fixed by the State Government in Bombay area vary from place to place and are not comparable to the rates fixed by the Railways which are of a uniform character.

(c) The rates are reviewed from time to time and the next review in the above area is due to be undertaken by the Railway Administrations concerned shortly.

REORGANISATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ZONES OF RAILWAYS

33 SHRI BAIACHANDRA MENON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reorganise the administrative Zones of the Indian Railways; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

SETTING UP OF FERTILISER FACTORY AT MATHURA

34 SHRI GANESH LAL MALI:

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a fertiliser factory is also proposed to be set up by the