

order problems during the years 1970 and 1971 leading to serious dislocation to train services and heavy immobilisation of wagons on account of extensive thefts of wagon parts. The morale of the Railway staff was also seriously affected due to intimidation and assaults on them by unruly elements. With the improvement in law and order situation, the functioning of Andal yard is being normalised and consequently coal loading from this depot has also improved. This will be seen from the comparative daily average coal loading figures of Andal Depot shown below month by month during the years 1971 and 1972:—

Month	1971	1972
January . . .	1191	1130
February . . .	1116	1187
March . . .	1079	1187
April . . .	1142	1247
May . . .	1128	1203
June . . .	1055	1151

OIL EXPLORATION IN OFFSHORE AREAS

819. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) the success so far achieved in offshore oil drillings in the country;

(b) the total expenditure incurred so far and the foreign exchange involved in the operations; and

(c) the details of the offshore oil drilling schemes to be undertaken during 1972-73?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H.R. GOKHALE): (a) and (c) So far the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has drilled one offshore well using a fixed platform. This was in the shallow waters off Aliabet island in the Gulf of

Cambay, during 1970-71. Though oil was struck in this Well, the oil find was found to be not of commercial interest. The Commission is acquiring a self-propelled self-elevating, jack-up type of mobile platform from Japan for drilling in the deeper waters, which is expected to arrive in India by the end of this year. With this mobile platform, the Commission has planned to start drilling, beginning early in 1973, on the 'Bombay High' structure and adjacent structures located in the deep waters in the Arabian sea adjoining the Gulf of Cambay. Various other preparatory steps are also in progress in this regard.

(b) Upto the end of June, 1972, the aggregate expenditure on offshore operations mentioned, above, has been of the order of Rs. 1277.90 lakhs with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 961.61 lakhs. It includes expenditure of Rs. 887.86 lakhs all in foreign exchange, towards the instalments paid for the mobile off-shore drilling platform, presently under construction in Japan.

DRILLING OPERATIONS IN WEST BENGAL

820. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether Government propose to restart drilling operations in 24 Parganas and Midnapore, Districts of West Bengal which was stopped a few years ago; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H.R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b) The Oil & Natural Gas Commission is carrying out detailed seismic surveys in the southern and south eastern parts of West Bengal using sophisticated digital seismic recording systems in search of a favourable subsurface feature for possible oil & gas

entrapment. The question of resuming drilling operations in any part of West Bengal, including the districts of 24 Parganas and Midnapore, would be taken up as soon as such a favourable subsurface feature has been located.

Earlier, a subsurface feature considered favourable for possible oil and gas entrapment was located near Bodra in 24 Parganas District, as a result of the seismic surveys conducted in this region. Subsequently, an exploratory well was drilled on this feature. The well was abandoned since it had not revealed the existence of any commercial oil-gas accumulations on this feature.

The seismic data obtained, processed and interpreted so far have not established the existence of any other favourable subsurface feature worth testing by drilling :

FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES IN NORTH BENGAL

821. SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have so far been taken by Government to control floods in North Bengal;

(b) whether it is a fact that the proposed Tista embankment in North Bengal will displace a large number of persons in the area; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take for the rehabilitation of the affected persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL): (a) The Government of West Bengal have implemented measures consisting of embankments town protection schemes and river training works, to provide protection against floods in North Bengal rivers. The progress

reported to end of March, 1972, consists of 110 km of embankments and 10 town protection works. The total outlay till March, 1972, is Rs. 8.63 crores.

The North Bengal Flood Control Commission has been set up by the Government of West Bengal, for the preparation of a comprehensive plan of flood control and its implementation. The commission has taken up the necessary surveys and analysis of data for the preparation of the plan.

(a) and (c) The North Bengal Flood Control Commission have proposed to construct an embankment on the right bank of the Tista downstream of Jalpaiguri at an estimated cost of Rs. 52 lakhs. The scheme has not so far been approved. The Government of West Bengal have informed that a few persons residing on the river side will have to shift but no decision has yet been taken regarding their rehabilitation.

MEMORANDUM FROM UNEMPLOYED ENGINEERS CORPORATION HOWRAH

822. SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have received any memorandum from the Unemployed Engineers Corporation Howrah; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Unemployed Engineers' Corporation, Howrah, had requested for supply of re-rollable scrap to them at a concessional price to enable them to make productive about 60 scrap re-rolling units in Howrah area, which were at present inefficiently managed and unproductive. Their proposal is to have such scrap, re-rolled into