

change duties in the late night or early hours of the morning. For night duty the operator is allowed an extra day off.

OIL DRILLING IN CAUVERY BASIN

347. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :
SHRI S. S. RAJENDRAN :

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

(a) the present stages of oil drilling in the Cauvery basin in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) what is the success of the drilling operations in the areas of Chidambaram and Portonovo in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHA-VAN) : (a) 9 shallow wells and 10 structural wells have been drilled for obtaining sub-surface geological information and 10 deep exploration wells have been drilled to test, the oil and natural gas prospects of the structures discovered by seismic surveys. However, these drilling operations have not led to the discovery of any oil or natural gas deposits of commercial significance.

(b) In the Chidambaram area, the first exploration well is yet to be drilled. Therefore, nothing can be said, at present, regarding success or otherwise of the drilling operations in this area. In Porto Novo area, no drilling is envisaged as no favourable structures have been discovered there.

FAMILY PLANNING PROPAGANDA

348. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :
SHRI S. S. RAJENDRAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the propagation of family planning through motion pictures during the year 1970⁷¹; and

(b) if so, what are the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASE-KHAR) : (a) Propagation of family planning through motion pictures is an essential element of the Programme.

(b) A sum of Rs. 35 lakhs has been provided in the budget for 1970-71 for production and distribution of motion pictures for the propagation of family planning. Short films and quickies will be released through 6,000 cinema halls in the country. A Mobile A. V. Unit for screening films in rural areas has been provided to each district, additionally, 30 Field Publicity Units have been provided for this purpose. Furthermore, 3 additional mobile A. V. Units have been sanctioned for the more intensely populated districts. Prints of Family Planning films will also be supplied to the voluntary organisations participating in the Family Planning Programme.

ABOLITION OF TAXES ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

349. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : SHRI
S. S. RAJENDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to abolish all taxes on agricultural produce as an incentive for increasing agricultural output; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

भारत-नेपाल सीमा पर तस्कर व्यापार

350. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) भारत-नेपाल सीमा पर 1969-70 तथा 1970-71 के वित्तीय वर्षों में कितना तस्कर व्यापार हुआ और कितना माल पकड़ा गया ; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इस तस्कर व्यापार में पुलिस अधिकारी भी अन्तर्ग्रस्त हैं ?