

companies operating in India. (other than banking companies) when they seek approval for carrying on any activity of a trading, commercial or industrial nature or for starting fresh activities. The guidelines contemplate a reduction in foreign shareholding in these categories of companies.

Apart from the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973, the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1949, the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 the Companies Act 1956 and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 contain several provisions which give the Government substantial powers to control and regulate the operations of multinational companies in the country.

Payment of arrears to employees

649. SHRI S. W. DHABE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases about payment of arrears of wages and overtime to workers consequent upon upgradation and casual labourers having been brought under monthly rates of pay, in terms of the decisions taken at the meeting of Permanent Negotiating Machinery which are pending in the Nagpur Division of the Central Railway; and

(b) the reasons for delay in this regard and by when these cases are likely to be settled ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Conversion of temporary posts of L.D.Cs., U.D.Cs. and Assistants in the Railway Board

650. SHRI S. W. DHABE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of temporary posts in the category of L.D.Cs., U.D.Cs and Assistants in Railway Board's Office for the last five years or more;

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert them into permanent posts; and

(c) if so, by when the conversion will take place ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH) : (a) Information is as follows :

L.D.Cs.	29
U.D.Cs.	53
Assistants	54

Total 136

(b) and (c) As a general policy if temporary posts have continued to be in existence for five years, the question of converting them into permanent posts is taken up. Suitable action will be taken in respect of the posts mentioned in reply to part (a) above, with due regard to other factors.

Agreements with oil producing countries

651. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are pursuing bilateral agreements with some oil producing countries for supply of crude oil; and

(b) if so, what is the progress so far achieved in this respect and the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Following arrangements have so far been finalised for the import of crude oil during 1976 :—

<i>Name of the Country</i>	<i>Quantity in million tonnes</i>
U.A.E.	1.0
Saudi Arabia	1.1

These supplies have been arranged on a bilateral basis. It is not in the public interest to disclose other details.

Negotiations with a few other oil producing countries are still in progress.

Lawyers' Conferences

652. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he attended many Lawyers' Conferences in different