

(b) and (c) Oil exploratory surveys, drilling and testing operations are being conducted by Indian technicians in various onshore areas

In the offshore areas geophysical surveys are being carried out by survey-ship Anweshek owned by ONGC and manned by their technicians A German firm M/s Prakla is conducting offshore surveys off the Krishna-Godavary basin on a contract Drilling operations in the offshore areas are also being conducted by three drill ships of which one is owned and manned by ONGC and the other two have been hired from the foreign company ONGC's drillers geo scientists and technicians are being associated in the drilling and testing operations of these two chartered drillships

Railway line from Bathnaha to Siliguri

2710 SHRI HALIMUDDIN AIMED Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there was a proposal under consideration of the Government to construct a Railway line from Forbesganj or Bathnaha to Siliguri under North Eastern Frontier Railway Zone during the regime of Late Shri L N Misra the then Railway Minister

(b) whether site selection survey and estimate were also made if so what are they and in what stage the work stands and when the work is likely to be completed

(c) whether it is a fact that the area covered under the above proposal is a very backward and under developed and is also an important jute growing area and

(d) whether Government propose to lay this railway line to enable the jute producers to improve their lot by easy transhipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) and (b) No

(c) and (d) Railways are aware that the area is having agricultural economy and is jute growing but due

to severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already made it is not possible to undertake the construction of this rail line at present

Electrical Commercial Department

2711 SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of increasing work load posts of staff in Electric Commercial Department are being surrendered,

(b) whether at the same time the number of officers and supervisors are being increased, and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) No

(b) and (c) Only the following few posts have been created since August 1974 (when the ban was imposed) with matching surrenders of higher grade posts

Electrical Commercial	
Senior Scale	7
Junior Scale Class II	4
	7

Similar information in respect of Class III senior supervisory posts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

Staff in Oil Refineries

2712 SHRI K A RAJAN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil refineries under Indian Oil are highly over staffed and

(b) if so the details thereof and how Government is going to solve the problem?