

Theft of Crude Oil from the Pipelines of ONGC

7296. SHRI FAQUIR ALI ANSARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some persons had been chargesheeted in Ahmedabad for involvement in the theft of crude oil from the pipelines of Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this stolen oil was being sold to some mills;

(c) steps taken to ensure safeguards against future thefts from the pipelines of ONGC; and

(d) the names of those mills who used to purchase this stolen oil and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (d). There had been a case of theft of crude oil from a Well of Mehsana Project which was detected by police authorities. Six persons were arrested including one driver of ONGC Mehsana presently under suspension and chargesheeted in the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class, Kadi.

It was alleged that stolen crude was sold to two rice mills, namely, Patel Rice Mill and Bhavani Rice Mill of Bawala. The case against the six accused persons for the theft of crude oil is presently pending in the court. The question of taking action against the two mills who are alleged to have purchased this stolen crude oil would depend upon the outcome of the cases pending in the court. Intensive patrolling is being done to guard against such thefts in future.

Recognition of Trade Union in C.L.W

7297. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a policy decision of the Railway authorities not to recognise Trade Union in C.L.W.;

(b) whether it is a fact that C.L.W. Employees have been pressing for recognition of Union for the last twenty years;

(c) whether the present Government are thinking to recognise the Union at C.L.W.;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (e). Government did not consider it necessary to have any unions recognised in the Production Units on Indian Railways including C.L.W., as the grievances of staff of these organizations are taken up by the elected Staff Councils functioning in these Administrations, unlike the Zonal Railways, where there are no staff councils.

Following a Tripartite Labour Conference held in May 1977, a Tripartite Committee was set up by the Labour Ministry to make recommendations *inter alia* regarding norms for recognition of Unions. Government is considering their report and the question of recognition of unions in the Production Units including C.L.W. would be examined on merits in the light of the decision that may be taken by the Government on the report of the Committee.

Drilling in Kutch District

7298. SHRI ANANT DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided to start drilling work for oil after August, 1977 in Kutch district;