

(ii) Steam locomotives are provided with spark arrestors.

(iii) Announcements are also made on the public address system at stations, warning the passengers that crackers, fire-works and other dangerous goods are not to be carried in the compartments.

Using of Helicopter by ONGC for Off-shore drilling

3185. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) in co-operation of the Air Force whether the O.N.G.C. is using helicopter for the off-shore drilling;

(b) apart from the cooperation of the Air Force whether the O.N.G.C. has hired some foreign companies helicopters;

(c) if so, the details and names of the foreign country companies;

(d) if so, the total amount spent on the hired helicopters; and

(e) whether Government will buy helicopters of its own to avoid paying huge amount to multinationals?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). Apart from the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force, ONGC has engaged the following foreign agencies:—

1. M/s. Okanagan Helicopters Ltd., Canada, from 1976-77 to May 1978.
2. M/s. C. D. International Ltd., Singapore, from 1977-78 to date.

ONGC has paid approximately Rs. 4.15 crores to Indian parties and approximately US \$ 21.95 lakhs to foreign parties till 31-3-1978.

(e) Purchase of helicopters for ONGC's off-shore operations is under consideration.

Storing of Bombay High Oil

3186. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

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

(a) whether Bombay High started producing oil;

(b) what has been its flow;

(c) whether Government have made for storing the Bombay High Oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the channels to store this Oil produced from Bombay High?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) and (b). The commercial production of oil from Bombay High commenced in May, 1976. The present production of crude oil from Bombay High is about 80,000 barrels per day i.e. about 4 million tonnes per annum.

(c) to (e). Till recently the Oil and Natural Gas Commission used the single buoy mooring system with a storage tanker for supply of crude oil through tanker ships. Presently the oil produced is directly being transported through a pipeline to the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd's Refinery at Trombay.