

(c) Red Cross have reported that the Indian POWs, who are in Camps, are being treated according to Geneva Convention.

**Violation of Cease fire by  
Pak Forces**

480. SHRI R. S. PANDEY :  
SHRI P. M. MEHTA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of violations of the cease-fire by Pakistani forces since the last Indo-Pakistan War and the sectors where they took place;

(b) the damage caused to life and property as a result thereof, sector-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to meet such violations effectively ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) and (b). The cease fire was effective from 2000 hours on 17th December, 1971. On the days immediately following the cease fire, there were quite a number of violations but gradually the position stabilized itself. However, sporadic breaches, particularly firing from across the line of actual control, still occur. These are attempted to be resolved locally

There have been light casualties in these incidents; no artillery or aircraft was, however, destroyed as a result.

(c) Our security forces have instructions to take appropriate counter measures to meet such violations.

**Possibility of Oil being found  
between Kerala Coast and  
Laccadive Islands**

481. SHRI C. M. STEPHEN :  
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :

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

(a) whether Government is aware of reports that there is a promising sedimentary

basin of oil between Kerala Coast and Laccadive Islands;

(b) whether Government of Kerala have approached the Central Government with a request for a systematic exploration in this area; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) :

(a) The reconnaissance seismic profiling conducted in the past by ONGC in the Arabian Sea off Kerala coast has not indicated thick sedimentation in the Shelf area adjoining Kerala.

(b) On 4th May, 1971, the Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala had written to the then Minister of Petroleum & Chemicals, suggesting further seismic investigation for purposes of oil exploration off the sea coast of Kerala.

(c) In view of the discouraging results of the seismic survey carried out so far, ONGC has no present plans to conduct further exploration in this area.

**Import of 'Rectifier' by Kerala  
Government for Caustic-  
Chlorine Plant**

482. SHRI C. M. STEPHEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala has sought sanction for the import of "Rectifier" in connection with the seven-crore expansion project of the Caustic-Chlorine plant in the public sector unit of Travancore Cochin Chemicals; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of India thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a). Yes, Sir.