

thermal plants, to co-ordinate the operation of hydro-stations with other stations in various parts of the country, and to commission the new plants as early as possible. With the onset of the monsoon of 1973, the power situation has improved except in U.P. and the D.V.C. area. Some shortages persist also in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Among the important subjects considered by the Group of Ministers and on which action has been initiated in accordance with their recommendations are:

- (1) Maximising the utilisation of the existing power generation capacity.
- (2) Expediting the construction, erection and commissioning of the power projects.
- (3) Ways and means for improving the operation of DVC.
- (4) Imports of generating plant and equipment for certain hydro and thermal power plants for ensuring their speedy completion.
- (5) Installation of diesel generating sets for agricultural pumping as well as for stand-by plants in industries.
- (6) Conversion of some power plants in Neyveli to oil firing to tide over the shortage of lignite and increase power generation.
- (7) Captive power plants for the steel industry.
- (8) Arrangements for supply and transport of coal and fuel oil for thermal power plants.
- (9) Arrangements for improving the quality of fuels for the thermal power plants.
- (10) Rationalisation of priorities for power supply for maximising industrial and agricultural output.

Reservation of posts for Graduates direct-Recruits in resultant vacancies due to upgradation of posts in Accounts Department of Central Railway

319. SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY:

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the orders issued in Railway Board's letter No. E(S)-1-61/CPC/88 dated 16th/17th April, 1962 that 20 per cent of the resultant vacancies in the grade of Rs. 80-220 (prescribed) accruing on 1st April, 1956 as a result of upgradation of posts should be reserved for Graduates' direct recruits in the Accounts Department of Central Railway; and

(b) if not, (i) the number of Graduates Clerks eligible for promotion in such vacancies but not yet promoted and (ii) the steps taken to ensure implementation of these orders?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The Hon'ble Member presumably refers to Railway Board's letter No. E(S)-1-61/CPC/83 dated 16/17-4-62 and the orders contained there in have been implemented in the Accounts Department of the Central Railway.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of Drilling Rigs by USSR for Oil Exploration in India

320. SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had asked the USSR Government for the supply of drilling rigs as part of the co-operation programme in the exploration of oil resources; and

(b) if so, the number of rigs asked for and the reaction of that Government thereto?