Proposal to Search for Oil at Tamil Nadu Coast

49. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: SHRI C. JANARDHANAN;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal to search for oil at Tamil Nadu coast?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Yes, Sir. A contract for exploration and exploitation of hydro-carbons in Cauvery offshore basin has been recently awarded to the Asamera Group of Canada. In on-land Tamil Nadu, a number of deep wells have been drilled but no commercial deposits of hydrocarbons have so far been discovered. The exploration work is, however, continuing.

Talks for Take-over of Burmah Shell and Caltex

50. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have arrived at and signed a settlement with marketing and refinery Companies of Burmah Shell in India, for the latter's take-over;
- (b) whether the agreement provide for continuity in employment, terms of service conditions, benefits and facilities enjoyed by employees of Burmah Shell; and
- (c) whether Government have started negotiations with Caltex (India) Limited also, for the latter's take-over?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present officers and staff. working in Burmah Shell Refineries Limited and Burmah Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Company of India Limited including those on temporary overseas assignments will continue to be in service or be employed as the case may be by the continuing Government Company under existing terms and conditions. A view of the scales of pay and perquisites and the terms and conditions of service will be taken at the time deemed appropriate by the Government or the Government Company.

(c): Yes, Sir.

Legal Aid and Advice Boards in States

- 51. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA; Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether some of the State Governments have established Legal Aid and Advice Boards for providing free legal aid to the poor; and
 - (b) if so, the names of such States?-

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recovery of Crude Oil from Assam and Ankleshwar Oil Fields

52. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state the quantity of crude oil, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is expecting to recover from the Assam and Ankleshwar oil fields?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): As on 1st January, 1975, ONGC had discovered