

ning of all these unmanned level crossings would cost, according to the present day rates, about Rs. 110 crores initially, which would have to be borne by the State Governments as per extant rules, and about Rs. 31 crores as annual recurring maintenance charges, which would have to be borne by the Railways.

It is neither feasible nor necessary to man all the unmanned level crossings.

The Railways carry out periodical census of traffic to review the need for manning of unmanned level crossings. Based on this, some unmanned level crossings are manned each year in consultation with the State Government taking into account various factors like density of traffic, visibility, accident proneness, etc. as also the availability of funds. This is being done in respect of the unmanned level crossings situated in all the States including Haryana.

Decision to raise Marriage Age of Boys and Girls

146. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have decided to raise the minimum marriage age for boys to 21 and for girls to 18 years, and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, and connected Acts are proposed to be amended for the purpose. The Bill will be introduced in this session.

Discovery of Oil during 1975

147. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places where oil was struck during the year 1975 and the stage at which each well stands at present;

(b) whether any more wells are likely to be drilled in the near future; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (c). During 1975, oil has been discovered at two places, namely, Sannaokhurd and Nandasan, both in Gujarat. Of the five wells drilled at Sannaokhurd one has been found oil-bearing, one gas-bearing, two have proved dry and the fifth is to be further fully tested. At Nandasan only one well has been drilled and tested in which the presence of oil has been indicated.

One more well each at Sannaokhurd and Nandasan is planned to be drilled during 1976-77. Additionally both ONGC and oil India Limited are to drill a number of wells in their areas of operations in the country.

Reduction in Salaries of Executive of HPC and Bharat Refineries

148. SHRI N E HORO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reduced the salaries of some top executives in the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Refineries formerly known as ESSO and Burmah Shell;

(b) if so, to what extent and the broad outlines of the agreement reached with these foreign oil companies at the time of their take-over; and