

SHRI R. K. AMIN :
 DR. M. SANTOSHAM :
 SHRI PILOO MODY :
 SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
 SHRI NANJA GOWDER :
 SHRI D. N. DEB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation wage bill during the last two years has increased manifold ;

(b) if so, the details of the wage bill in 1968-69 and 1969-70 ; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to decrease expenditure on such non-productive expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The wage bill of the Life Insurance Corporation has increased by about one third during the last 2 years.

(b) 1968-69	—	Rs. 34.71 crores
1969-70	—	Rs. 40.05 crores

(subject to audit)

(c) Salaries are part of the normal expenses of management of insurers, and therefore inevitable. Care is, however, taken to ensure that fresh recruitment necessitated by the increase in work is kept to the barest minimum.

Nationalisation of Foreign Capital in Uganda

2186. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :
 SHRI N. K. SOMANI :
 SHRI R. K. AMIN :
 DR. M. SANTOSHAM :
 SHRI PILOO MODY :
 SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
 SHRI NANJA GOWDER :
 SHRI D. N. DEB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Uganda authorities have nationalised several foreign firms including a number of Indian banks and sugar factories ;

(b) to what extent India's foreign exchange earnings are likely to be affected and the extent to which India's investments have been affected as a result of these developments ; and

(c) whether Government have taken up this issue with the Uganda Government and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The National Assembly of Uganda passed the Companies (Government and Public Bodies Participation) Act on the 6th May, 1970 under which Government or public bodies declared by the Minister as such for the purposes of the Act, were deemed to have acquired, with effect from the close of business on the 30th April, 1970, 60% of the shares of each class issued by the companies specified in Schedule I of the Act. Two of our nationalised banks, namely, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India are included in this Schedule.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India and certain Indian general insurance companies have branches in Uganda. There are not included in the Schedule presumably because they are not incorporated locally and the question of taking over 60 per cent of the shareholding would not arise. However, the Uganda authorities have been having discussions with these companies with a view to getting them to incorporate themselves locally and offer 60 per cent of the share capital to the Government of Uganda. These companies had to stop taking new business with effect from the 18th June 1970 following an amendment to the Insurance Companies Act which prohibited insurance companies from writing new business unless they were incorporated in Uganda. Discussions about the future set up of the insurance companies are still going on between the Uganda authorities and the companies concerned.

(b) It is difficult to assess extent of

loss of India's foreign exchange earnings due to these measures. Bank of Baroda and Bank of India were repatriating a moderate amount of profit between Rs. 4 lakhs and Rs. 6 lakhs per annum to India during the last three years. Since 60 per cent of the shares of these banks are now owned by the Uganda Government, in future these banks will be able to remit only 40 per cent of their profits.

The business of Life Insurance Corporation of India in Uganda was not profitable and these measures would not, therefore, affect our foreign exchange earnings significantly. Information regarding other insurance companies is not readily available.

(c) No Sir. Government considers that the matter is essentially one of policy for the Uganda Government to determine in the light of its own interests.

**Oil Exploration Programme
of O & N. G. C.**

2187. SHRI GADILINGANA
GOWD :
SHRI PILOO MODY ;
SHRI MEETHA LAL
MEENA :

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has worked out a fresh programme of exploration to be launched in 1971-72 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the total financial implication of the proposed crash programme ; and

(d) the extent to which the country's oil capacity is likely to be increased consequently ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) to (d). The revised programme of work during the 4th Five Year Plan period by the ONGC includes the following-volume of work to be carried out in India during 1971-72 :—

Geological surveys	... 16 field parties
Gas Logging	... 10 field parties
Shallow drilling	... 4 field parties
Topographical survey	... 13 field parties
Gravity-cum-magnetic surveys	... 5 field parties
Seismic surveys	... 30 field parties
Electrologging	... 20 field parties
Electrical prospecting	... 1 field party

Deep drilling (exploratory and development) :

On land ; 108 wells totalling in meterage to 252,300

Offshore: Not Specified.

In the light of the results of the exploration work conducted subsequent to the submission in December, 1969 by the ONGC of the revised programme of work under the 4th Plan period, ONGC is estimating the revised volume of drilling operations to be undertaken.

The financial implications will be known only after the volume of drilling to be conducted during 1971-72 has been re-assessed.

It is not possible to indicate what will be the addition to the oil reserves of India and therefore what will be the increase in the India's oil production capacity as a result of the exploration work to be conducted during 1971-72.

Mineral Deposits in Bihar and Orissa -

2188. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO ;
SHRI A. DIPA ;
SHRI R.R. SINGH DEO ;
SHRI D.N. DEB ;
SHRI G.C. NAIK ;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state the total deposits of iron and manganese, aluminium, lime, nickel, copper, chromite, kyanite, dolomite, bauxite and coal surveyed in Orissa and Bihar, separately, district-wise ?