

oil exploration through foreign and Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). In the calendar year 1989, ONGC drilled and completed 438 wells onland and 138 wells offshore. By the end of the year, 300 wells onland and 112 wells offshore were tested. Of these, 235 wells onland and 84 wells offshore were declared oil/gas producers. These wells produced about 1.907 million tonnes of oil and about 3187 million cubic metres of gas during the year.

(c) In order to supplement the oil exploration activities of national oil companies, Government of India in 1986, offered under the 3rd round of bidding, 27 offshore blocks for bids by foreign oil companies. On this basis, Production Sharing Contracts have been signed with five international oil companies for 9 blocks. Two Companies, namely, Chevron International Ltd. and Texaco Exploration India Inc., and Shell India Production Development B.V. have so far drilled 3 wells without any positive results. The work by the other 3 companies is in different stages of progress. An exercise has been initiated to examine if more blocks can be offered to foreign/Indian oil companies under the next (4th) round.

The exploration plans of ONGC and OIL for the next five years would be finalised along with finalisation of the Eight five year plan for the country.

[*Translation*]

Bridges in Bhavnagar and Rajkot divisions

*484. **SHRI PATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals under consideration for construction of railway overbridges and underbridges in Bhavnagar and Rajkot Divisions of Western Railway; and

(b) the time by which the construction thereof will be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government of Gujarat has initiated proposals for construction of the following seven road overbridges:

Bhavnagar Division: Near Sarkhej (3 Nos.) and At Dhandhuka.

Rajkot Division: One each at Saijertha, Padaldhari and Rajkot.

(b) The works can be taken up, only after the complete schemes therefor are finalised and sponsored by the State Government duly consenting to bear/share the cost as per rules.

[*English*]

Measures for Conservation of Petroleum Products

*485. **SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the new item appeared in the "Indian Express" dated 25 March, 1990 referring to a report predicting acute shortage of oil and rise in oil prices during the next three to four years;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for conservation of petroleum products to meet the shortage?