

**I.O.C. Officers on Mass Casual Leave**

3960. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers of Indian Oil Corporation had gone on mass casual leave on 24th June, 1977; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. ¶

**Direct Line From Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi**

3961. SHRI GIRIJANANDAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no proper rail communication facility in West Sitamarhi sub-division of Sitamarhi District in Bihar;

(b) whether there is no direct rail connector between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi and the existing rail connection is *via* Samastipur and Darbhanga district;

(c) whether a scheme of providing direct line from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi was under consideration of the Government some years back and necessary survey work was also undertaken; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take up the scheme at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi are at present linked with each other *via* Samastipur and *via* Raxaul but there is no direct railway line linking them.

(c) No traffic survey for construction of Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi line has been undertaken after 1928.

(d) Due to paucity of funds, it will not be possible to consider the scheme at present.

**Tube Railway in Calcutta**

3962. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Works regarding the construction of Tube Railway in Calcutta is in progress as per schedule; and

(b) the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) :**

(a) The original schedule to complete the project by 1979 had to be revised due to constraint of resources. The Planning Commission have indicated that only limited funds will be available for this project in the remaining years of the fifth plan.

(b) Civil Engineering contracts have been awarded in nine sections out of twenty nine and the over-all upto date progress of work is 11%.

**Caustic Soda Factory at Palamau in Bihar**

3963. SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given clearance to Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation to set up a caustic soda factory at Palamau in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the total expenditure, total output contemplated and the tentative date by which it will start functioning?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) :**

(a) and (b). A letter of intent No. LI: 160(74) dated 28th February 1974 for the manufacture of following items in the District of Palamau in the State of Bihar has been issued in favour of M/S. Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation.

Item of manufacture	Annual capacity
(i) Caustic Soda	32,000 tonnes
(ii) Chlorine	28,480 tonnes

The total capital cost of the project including the working capital requirements is estimated at Rs. 1655 lacs which includes a foreign exchange component of Rs. 215 lacs for the purchase of machinery etc.

It is not possible at this stage to indicate the date by which the plant will go into production.

**Funds Allotted for Hassan-Mangalore Railway Line**

3964. SHRI JANARDHANA P OJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Rai way authority had diverted any portion of the funds allotted for the construction<sup>a</sup> of Hassan-Mangalore Railway resulting in undue delay in execution of the project?