

misrepresenting the facts in their applications for industrial/import/ C.O.B. licences; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against them?

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

(a) and (b). M/s Hoechst applied for a C.O.B. Licence for continuing the manufacture of (i) Catilan Capsules; (ii) Vitahexet; (iii) Hostacortin H 10 ml.; (iv) Titanus Antitoxin (v) Hostacycline Dry Syrup; and (vi) Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine based on certain facts and assumptions made by them. These were examined as per policy and C.O.B. licence was granted for the first 3 items.

For Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine, it was not considered necessary to grant a C.O.B. licence since they had already obtained a separate industrial licence for higher capacity and their manufacture of this was to be subsumed in that licence.

For the remaining items, viz., Tetanus Antitoxin and Hostacyclin Dry Syrup, their application was rejected since Government did not consider them eligible for a C.O.B. licence as per policy, considering the facts made available by the Company. M/s. Hoechst represented against the rejections in respect of Hostacycline Dry Syrup and Tetanus Antitoxin and filed petitions in the Bombay High Court seeking legal remedies to compel the issue of C.O.B. licence for these two items also. The High Court directed that the Government consider the case *de novo* and pass appropriate orders after hearing the Company.

Whether they have misrepresented facts for obtaining other Industrial/Import licences is not known since no separate study in this respect has been made. No specific instance of this nature has, however, come to the notice of Government.

Set up of more Petrochemical Projects

4597. **SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up more Petro-chemical projects in the country;

(b) number of petro-chemical Projects proposed to be set up in the near future in the country and number of projects proposed to be set up in Assam; and

(c) the likely date of finalisation etc.?

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

(a) to (c). For the present there are no plans to set up any new Petro-chemical projects in the country. The position is, however, kept constantly under review and as and when it is decided to set up any additional Petro-chemical projects, the question of their location will also be decided.

Casual Labourers in Katihar Division

4598. **SHRI HALIMUDDIN AHMED:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary C.P.C. scale holder casual labourers working up to 15th September, 1977 in Katihar Division of N.F. Railways working under various inspectors against class IV category vacancies;

(b) how many of them have been retrenched and the reason of their random discharge;

(c) how many of them were working on the open line and completed 4 months' continuous service and were they given temporary status and brought on to regular scale of pay; and

(d) number of direct recruitment in class IV posts after 15th September, 1977; whether these recruitments were made from amongst the casual labourers on roll; if not, the reasons thereof, when class IV posts are normally being filled from amongst casual labourers and substitutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) 370 were working on 15th September 1977.

(b) None.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Class IV posts are filled on N.F. Railway on a 50:50 basis, that is, 50 per cent from the candidates sponsored by Employment Exchange and 50 per cent from amongst casual labour and substitutes. No direct recruitment has however, been made after 15th September, 1977.

Railway Route from Ariyalur to Attur

4599. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) any survey was conducted for a new Railway route from Ariyalur to Attur via Permbalur and Thuraiyur;

(b) if so, the fate of that survey;

(c) if survey was not conducted, would it be taken hereafter; and

(d) is there any proposal to have a survey for a new route from Jayankondam to Attur via Ariyalur, Perambalur, and Thuraiyur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Due to the existing paucity of funds, it will be difficult to undertake a survey for the proposed railway line at present.

Reported loss of empty Cooking Gas Cylinders

4600. SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2700 empty cooking gas cylinders have been reported lost by the Indian Oil Corporation during transit between Calcutta and Gauhati;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if Government aware that a regular black market is flourishing in these empties because of the stoppage of new gas connection, what does Government propose to do about?

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

(a) and (b). Between December, 1976 and April, 1977, 2700 empty gas cylinders reportedly despatched on eight occasions by one distributor of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) at Gauhati through two approved transport contractors to Gauhati Refinery were not received at Gauhati refinery. While the distributor had stated that these cylinders were handed over to the contractors, the latter have denied having accepted the cylinders. The non-receipt of these cylinders came to IOC's notice when the inventory of equipment lying with the distributor was taken in April, 1977. After preliminary investigations into the matter, the IOC had reported this case to the Director, Bureau of Investigation, Economic Offences, Gauhati on 1st September, 1977. Investigations are in progress to locate the missing cylinders and apprehend the culprits.

(c) There is no report of any regular black market of empty cylinders. Whenever loss of cylinders is noticed by IOC with the distributor or the transport contractor, money is recovered from the concerned party at a penal rate for the cylinders lost.