

(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.