

(c) A statement (Annexure 'II') is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1876/78].

(d) Question does not arise.

Scarcity of Petroleum Products

3811. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been generally scarcity of petroleum products in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial measures taken?

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

(a) and (b). There is no general shortage of any petroleum product excepting liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and paraffin wax in respect of which some scarcity is being experienced. In the case of liquefied petroleum gas, the demand is far in excess of the availability of the product. However, the gas refill requirements of existing customers are generally being met in full. In the case of temporary shortages of liquefied petroleum gas, impart of spiked crude to the extent possible from free foreign exchange sources, is allowed. Paraffin wax, which is produced mainly in the Digboi Refinery of Assam Oil Company, is not adequate to meet the demands. Hence, canalised import of paraffin wax had been permitted under the import policy for 1977-78. Import of a quantity of about 1800 metric tonnes of paraffin wax from free foreign exchange sources has been firm up so far during the year 1977-78. As regards other petroleum products, some problems of availability of short durations were experienced in certain locations due to inadequate movement of petroleum products by tank-wagons. A number of steps were

taken on this account and the tank-wagon movement also registered significant improvement. As a result of all this, supply position has now improved considerably.

Selection of Legal Assistants through Railway Service Commission

3812. SHRI HARGOVIND VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not making selection of departmental Legal Assistants also through the Railway Service Commission on the pattern of Central Secretariat departmental competitive examinations since their selection by the administrative department takes two to three years; and

(b) the objection of Railway Board thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). 33-1/3 per cent of the vacancies of Law Assistants are filled through the Railway Service Commission by open competition and the remaining 66-2/3 per cent vacancies are filled departmentally by selection from amongst serving employees. The Railway Service Commissions as constituted now, will not be in a position to handle departmental selections. Such selection on the Railways are held by duly constituted Selection Boards in accordance with the prescribed procedure. Departmental selections are normally finalised without delay. Long delay do not usually occur except where candidates resort to litigation or there are disputes about seniority etc.

Recruitment in Sindri Unit of F.C.I.

3814. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of people recruited in different categories in the

Sindri Unit of the F.C.I. and P&D after Emergency and the percentage of Harijans, Adivasis and local people of Chhotanagpur in that;

(b) whether it is a fact that the interest of weaker section of the society is being constantly ignored at Sindri keeping their percentage still less than the minimum in all categories; and

(c) if so, facts in detail and steps taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Serving of one rupee Janata Meal in Trains

3814. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to serve one rupee janata meal in long distance trains;

(b) if so, whether it is known to the Government that the Society for the Servants of God' used to serve one rupee balanced meal in the Parliament for many years;

(c) if so, will the Government consult this Society and take their expert views and others assistance regarding preparation of one-rupee balanced meal in trains; and

(d) if so, facts thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). The one rupee meal, it is understood, is not served any more in the Parliament House. The menu of this meal consisted of liquid items,

which cannot be included in janata food packets, which are essentially dry food items packed hygienically in polythene bags and paper cartons so that they may be conveniently served on trains. The Railways, who have been catering on the railways departmentally for some time now have also been selling low priced food packets and have sufficient expertise in this field. Every effort would be made to supply good quality wholesome meal in the Janata Khana packets.

Oil and Gas Resources in Cachhar District, Assam

3815. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cachhar district of Assam has the potentiality of underground oil and gas resources;

(b) if so, the facts thereabout; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed for their exploration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). The geological and geophysical surveys conducted by ONGC so far in the Cachhar area of Assam, have indicated prospects of finding oil and gas resources there. Seven structures, namely, Chargola, Masimpur, Kanchanpur, Chatachur Putharia Badarpur and Chandipur have been identified for exploratory drilling. Drilling on one location on the Chargola structure was commenced on 5th July, 1977 and is currently in progress.

मृत रेलवे कर्मचारियों के सम्बन्धियों को रोजगार

3816. श्री चन्द्र देव प्रसाद वर्मा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :