

(d) whether there are any complaints more than 5 years old for non-payment of wages; and

(e) if so, please state reasons for non payment of dues for such a long period and whether the Railway administration is contemplating to take action against the defaulting staff?

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

(b) Yes Action is taken on all complaints and the employees are informed of the disposal of their complaints

(c) Only one complaint pertaining to the year 1965 could not be finalised as the records were destroyed having been time-barred

(d) & (e) Only one claim relating to non-payment of wages for the period from 6th July to 13th August 1965 and 13th September to 8th October 1965 could not be finalised due to non-availability of records which have been destroyed being time-barred. As such the question of taking action against the staff does not arise

Assurance given to Gujarat for supply of associated and natural gas from Bombay High

3233 **SHRI VINODBHAI B SHETH** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government is aware that supply of associated and natural gas from Bombay High has been started as per assurance given by Government to Maharashtra and that the assurance given to Gujarat of starting the work as per schedule has not been kept,

(b) will he assure the House that implementation of the assurance given by Government to Gujarat will be taken up immediately, and

(c) if yes, when it is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) to (c) The laying of sub-sea pipelines from Bombay High to Uran as well as the laying of transfer lines from Uran to Trombay has been completed. Oil and gas have started flowing through these pipelines. It has also been decided that there would be another gas pipeline from South Bassem field to Gujarat which on its way would be interconnected with the associated gas pipeline from Bombay High so that the flow of both associated and non-associated gas in the two directions could be regulated according to requirements.

A Feasibility Study on the gas pipeline to Gujarat has just been completed and is being examined by ONGC. The report alongwith ONGC's recommendations is expected to be submitted to Government shortly. Thereafter a view on the economics, location, time-schedule of completion, etc. of the pipeline would be taken by Government.

Supply of Coal to Textile Mills

3234 **SHRI VIJAYKUMAR N PATIL** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the number of wagon loads of coal to be supplied to some textile mills per month has been reduced,

(b) whether the quota of wagon loads of coal to be supplied to some other textile mills has been increased, and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) Yes

(c) Secretary, Indian Cotton Mills Federation who is the sponsoring authority for movement of coal to cotton mills has recommended reduction in allocation of coal wagons in respect of 43 units and has enhanced allocation for 30 units. These recommendations have been accepted for implementation from August 1978

Restructuring of Price of Farm Inputs

3235. SHRI T. A. PAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reported speech of the Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals that the farm inputs price require restructuring in the interest of the farmers; and

(b) what urgent steps the Government propose to take in this matter in the immediate future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to make available farm inputs to the farmers at reasonable prices. The price of urea, the major nitrogenous fertilizer, was reduced by Rs. 100 per tonne with effect from 12-10-77. Based on a report of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices which indicated some scope in reduction of prices of pesticides, a dialogue was held with the pesticides manufacturers who have also reduced prices of a number of items of pesticides ranging upto 12 per cent. Government have also recently withdrawn excise duty on pesticides. Besides, the Chief Ministers have been requested to exempt fertilizers and pesticides as also the raw materials used in their manufacture from sales tax/octroi, etc.

Contracts for construction of Mathura Refinery

3236. SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many contracts for building and construction of Mathura Refinery have been given to foreign and Indian Companies;

(b) whether India is today not fully capable of taking over the entire construction and erection of a refinery of this magnitude; and

(c) for how much money the contracts have already been given to various contractors?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (c). Out of 78 major contracts of the value of approximately Rs. 83 crores, 11 contracts amounting to about Rs. 22 crores have been awarded to foreign companies and the remaining 67 to Indian companies.

(b) Although considerable know-how in the field of process design, engineering and fabrication of equipment and machinery is available in India, for a refinery like Mathura, which has a single Atmospheric column of 6/7 million metric tonnes per annum, expatriate assistance would be needed. Similarly for construction and erection of imported equipment and machinery, some expatriate assistance becomes necessary mainly to ensure performance guarantees.

Effect of Telephone Cable Thefts and Chain Pulling on Punctuality of Railways

3237. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the large scale theft of telephone cables and indiscriminate pulling of the alarm chain of Railways have adversely