

Appointment of New Additional Judges to the Supreme Court of India

1388. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new additional judges have been recently appointed to the Supreme Court of India;

(b) if so, who are they and when did they assume their new charge;

(c) whether some more judges are further to be appointed;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They are:

(i) Shri Justice Anand Dev Koshal.

(ii) Shri Justice Ontethupalli Chinnappa Reddi.

(iii) Shri Justice Ananda Prakash Sen.

They assumed charge on 17th July, 1978.

(c) to (e) Before 31-12-1977 the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was 13 judges (excluding the Chief Justice). In view of the load of work with the Supreme Court the former CJI had suggested an increase in the strength of the judges of the Supreme Court by at least 2 so that 15 judges (excluding the Chief Justice) should be in position. In view of the rising trend in institutions/arrears and to obviate the need for legislating again after a short period the strength of the Supreme Court judges was increased to 17 (excluding the Chief Justice) by the Supreme Court Judges (Number of Judges) Amendment Act 1977, which received the assent of the President on 31st December, 1977. For the present 15 judges

(excluding the Chief Justice) have been appointed as proposed by the Chief Justice of India. If the Chief Justice of India feels that more judges are required and makes a proposal the case will be considered by Government.

Beddings Supplied to Rail Passengers

1389. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the beddings supplied by the Railways on the long journey trains to first and second class passengers are not adequate in number and that they often contain unclean (if not dirty and soiled) bed-sheets, pillow-covers and napkins; and

(b) if so, steps being urgently taken by Government to rectify and improve the said situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) A few complaints about non-supply of bed rolls in long distance trains have been received. The Railway Administration is keeping a watch on the stock of bed-rolls as well as the cleanliness thereof and steps are being taken to augment the stock where required. This is also being ensured through regular and surprise inspections by officials.

Female Workers in Kharagpur Workshop

1390. SHRI SUDHIR GHOSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state how many female workers are working in Kharagpur workshop and how many creches are there for the babies of the female workers as per factories Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): There are 22 female workers in Kharagpur Workshop. In the year 1959 a creche was provided for the babies. Later it was found that the number of children of

femals workers needing the use of creche was insignificant and the building was put to alternative use. Due to increase in the number of appointments of widows on compassionate grounds in the recent past, it has become necessary to construct a creche and action has already been initiated to have a creche constructed.

Ernakulam-Alleppey Railway Line

1391. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government regarding the Ernakulam-Alleppey railway line;

(b) the reasons for delay; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government for the earlier sanction of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c): The Ministry of Railways have proposed the inclusion of Ernakulam-Alleppey new line project in the 6th Plan. The traffic prospects and the viability of the project are under examination in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Govt. of Kerala.

Extraction of Cooking Gas from Natural Gas in Assam

1392. SHRI DHARMA VIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Limited had prepared a Rs. 15 crore scheme for extraction of cooking gas from the natural gas available in abundance in Assam oilfields; and

(b) whether a letter of intent had been issued to an Indo-British enterprise to produce 50,000 tonnes of LPG per year; and if so, the details of the same?

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

(a) and (b): A letter of intent for extraction of 50,000 tonnes of L.P.G. per annum was issued to Oil India Limited on 7-7-1976. Its validity has been extended upto 6-1-1979. The Company is in the process of finalising its feasibility report of the scheme which is estimated to cost around Rs. 19 crores.

Danger to Taj due to Mathura Refinery

1393. SHRI DHARMA VIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (N.E.E.R.I.) had expressed concern over pollution peril to Taj and other historical buildings in the Mathura-Agra area due to the Mathura refinery, factories etc; and

(b) if the reply to the (a) be in the affirmative then the steps taken to check pollution?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) In a note sent to the Member-Secretary of the Expert Committee on the Environmental Impact of Mathura Refinery on 12-8-1977, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) requested re-examination of the problem of effect of pollution of Mathura Refinery on Taj Mahal.

(b) The Government have received in December 1977 the unanimous report of the Expert Committee to study the environmental impact of the Mathura Refinery, of which representatives of the Archaeological Survey of India and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute are also members. The report is presently under consideration of Government.