

Secretary in the Ministry to which the Chairman and all Members of the Commission are invited.

New Jayanti Janta Express Train running between Delhi and Ahmedabad via Ajmer

129. SHRI P G MAVALANKAR Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether a new 'Jayanti Janta Express' train has been running between Delhi and Ahmedabad via Ajmer since the Republic Day, 1974;

(b) the special facilities and extra services offered by the said train to the travelling passengers; and

(c) whether efforts are being made to reduce the running time of the said train as also of other fast trains already in service between Delhi and Ahmedabad, and if so, with what results?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) (a) The existing 231 Up (31 Up)/32 Dn (232 Dn.) Delhi-Ahmedabad Janta Express has been converted into Jayanti Janta Type Express from 26th January 1974.

(b) A Pantry Car has been provided to meet the catering needs of passengers. On request, passengers are supplied with bed rolls on payment. The train is vestibuled.

(c) Consequent on their dieselisation on the entire run, the overall running time of 231 Up (31 Up)/32 Dn (232 Dn.) Jayanti Janta Express has been reduced by 63 minutes and 40 minutes respectively as compared to their running time on steam traction. The overall running time of 263 Up (3 Up)/4 Dn. (204 Dn.) Delhi-Ahmedabad Express has also been reduced by 55 minutes and 45 minutes respectively as compared to their running time on steam traction.

Alleged Transfer of Shares of Orissa Concrete Products Ltd. to a Private Businessman:

130. SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a company by the name of Orissa Concrete Products Ltd. was set up by a technocrat entrepreneur under the Pilot Project Scheme of the Orissa Government;

(b) whether the shares of the Company were transferred to a private businessman unconnected with the Project and in violation of the objects of the scheme and the Articles of association of the Company;

(c) whether the entrepreneur had made a representation to the Central Government in this regard, and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDA-BRATA BARUA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (d) The question raised is already under investigation in consultation with the State Government of Orissa

Minimum Five Years' Tenure for Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court

131 SHRI S. N. MISRA:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision about the appointment of only such persons as Judges of the various High Courts and Supreme Court as would have a tenure of at least five years; and

(b) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b). The Law Commission in their 14th Report on the Reform of Judicial Administration had recommended that the persons selected for appointment to the Supreme Court should have a tenure of at least 10 years. This recommendation was accepted by Government subject to the change that, save in exceptional cases, the minimum should ordinarily be 5 years. In respect of appointments to the High Courts, however, there is no such decision about a minimum tenure. There is no proposal to fix any minimum tenure in respect of High Court Judges.

Closing of Zuari Agro-Chemical Fertilizer Factory at Sancalle in Goa

132. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goa Administration have decided to close the Zuari Agro-Chemical Fertilizer Factory at Sancalle;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of persons who are likely to be affected; and

(d) what steps the Central Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Government are not aware of any such decision in this regard.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Oil drilling by O. & N.G.C. in Arabian Sea

133 SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in its drilling operations in the Arabian Sea;

(b) the amount spent so far by Government on this project; and

(c) the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) One well drilled on the Tarapur Structure to depth of 2,782 metres approximately. The well had been projected to a depth of 4,500 metres but drilling had to be temporarily abandoned at the depth of 2782 metres approximately on account of complications encountered in the well. A second well has been spudded on the Bombay High structure on 3rd February, 1974.

(b) Total revenue expenditure incurred on drilling operations in this Project amounts to Rs. 392.72 lakhs upto 31st January, 1974.

(c) The wells have given valuable lithological and stratigraphical information pertaining to the sedimentary section down to the depths drilled. In the Tarapur well, in the lower part, a number of lime-stone horizons have been met with, some of which have given indications of the presence of natural gas. The gas indications are of general interest in regard to exploration work in this region, although those indications are not of commercial interest in the well drilled. In the well on the Bombay High Structure, no indication of the presence of oil or gas has been obtained down to the depth of 238 metres drilled upto 10th February, 1974.