

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The quarters referred to in the representation numbering 140 were constructed during various years from 1924 to 1941.

(c) The increase in rent was due to increase in the covered area of the quarters as a result of improvements made in 1972 by providing a covered verandah.

Krishna Bridge

86. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the railway job for chipping and painting for Krishna Bridge has been transferred to contract labour; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Painting work in girder bridges is a seasonal work and no such painting work can be carried out during monsoons or bad weather. In the past when such seasonal departmental labour was discharged for want of work, there had been labour agitations. As such for painting work, the work had to be entrusted to contractors. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 does not specifically prohibit engagement of contract labour in seasonal type of work of chipping and painting of steel work in girder bridges.

A representation received from the honourable Member on the subject was replied to accordingly.

Selling of Methyl-Dopa by IDPL

87. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FER-

TILIZERS be pleased to state whether IDPL is selling Methyl Dopa at a price cheaper than that of the foreign company which was once the sole producer of this drug?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): IDPL is selling Methyl Dopa tabs. in 250 mg. strength only at present. The BICP have worked out a price of Rs. 61.33 per 100 tablet in this strength for IDPL but they have voluntarily reduced the price and are selling at Rs. 53 per 100 tab. as against the price of Rs. 53.67 per 100 tablet of 250 mg. strength of M/s. Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd. who were the sole producers of these tablets earlier.

Credit for Fertiliser Production by I. D. A.

88. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IDA has agreed to provide 105 million dollar credit for fertiliser production;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether fuller utilisation of capacity of existing plants is being sought with that money?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. This credit assistance is proposed to be utilised mainly for improving the operations of the existing fertilizer units, both in the public and private sectors. Apart from the balancing equipments required for improved operations of fertilizer plants, the credit would be available for—

(i) development of associated facilities to ensure reliability of captive power generation equipment, and

(ii) schemes designed for better production control like reco-

very of flourine in phosphatic fertilizer plants and production of items like soda ash and argon associated with fertilizer plants.

Offshore Drilling off-Orissa Coast

89. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the off-shore drilling off-Orissa coast has yielded an oil find; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). A well is being drilled in the Bay of Bengal, South of the coast of West Bengal and East of the coast of Orissa. Results will be known after the well is completed and tested.

Production of Railway Wagons in Railway Workshop at Amritsar

90. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Railway wagons have been produced in the Railway Workshop at Amritsar during 1974-75; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to modernise the Railway workshop?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) 725.5 wagons in terms of four-wheelers were produced during 1974-75 in Railway Workshop at Amritsar.

(b) No.

Reduction in the Prices of indigenous Phosphatic Fertilizers

91. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any reduction in the prices of fertilizers; and

(b) whether producers of indigenous phosphatic fertilizers have also reduced their prices?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The prices of urea and calcium ammonium nitrate which are controlled under the Fertilizer Control Order were reduced with effect from 18th July 1975 as under:—

Figures in Rupees.

	Original Retail Price	Reduced Retail price w.e.f. 18-7-1975 per tonne
Urea	2000	1850
Calcium Amm. Nitrate	1095	1015

In addition, the prices of some of the complex fertilizers marketed through the Central Pool were revised as shown in Statement I laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-9983/76]. With effect from 1st December, 1975, the prices of some of the complex fertilizers marketed through the Central Pool were further reduced as shown in Statement II, laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-9983/76].

(b) Keeping in view the reductions made in the complex fertilizers marketed through the Central Pool with effect from 18th July, 1975, the indigenous manufacturers of phosphatic fertilizer effected suitable reductions in the prices of their products. Following the reduction in the import duty on phosphoric acid from 30 per cent to 15 per cent with effect from 1-12-1975, MFL, Zuari Agrochemicals and IFFCO, whose facilities are bas-