

### Advance Increments granted to loyal Employees

1272. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the advance increment paid to loyal Railway employees after the May, 1974 general strike has been converted into permanent additional increment;

(b) whether some of them have been given an award of only Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 for being loyal; and

(c) if so, why such discrimination is being practised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) For those who were given the advance increment, the subsequent increment in the scale of pay is allowed, on the normal date i.e., on the date on which the normal increment would fall due but for the grant of advance increment and not on the anniversary of the grant of advance increment.

(b) and (c). According to the norms laid down, the loyal employees were eligible to receive only one of the benefits laid down, i.e., employment of sons/daughters, extension/re-employment, advance increment, cash award and hard-duty allowance. In keeping with this policy, respective awards were given to individuals depending upon the merits of each case.

### Durgapur Fertilizer Plant

1273. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state what is the present situation of the Durgapur Fertilizer Plant?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): The Durgapur Plant which started production in October, 1973, has had to grapple with several me-

chanical failures and problems in different sections of the plant, e.g., boiler feed water, syn. gas compressor, etc. With the result that it has not so far been possible to stabilise operation at a satisfactory level. Frequent power interruptions/failures and voltage dips in the power supply system of M/s. Durgapur Projects Limited from which the Fertilizer plant draws its power, have been seriously affecting steady and efficient plant operation.

To overcome the various mechanical defects other problems, an "end-to-end" survey was got done by M/s. TECHNIMONTH who were intimately involved in the designing etc., of this project. The "end-to-end" survey report has been received and appropriate remedial measures are underway to ensure steady operation of this plant at a satisfactory level. Further, measures to overcome the constraints in the power system are also under discussion with the West Bengal Government.

The plant has just started after completing certain repairs and is presently operating at about 30 per cent of its capacity.

### Double Track between Muradnagar-Ghaziabad

1274. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to have double track between Muradnagar and Ghaziabad in the near future; and

(b) if so, the target for doubling of this track?

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

(b) No target date has been fixed, however, it will take about three years subject to availability of adequate funds.