

to limited transshipment capacity *via* Mokamehghat by which route the supplies are made. There is no bridge across the Ganga in Bihar and coal has to be ferried across at Mokamehghat from broad gauge to metre gauge wagons. This is again dependent on the vagaries of the river.

(b) The provision of Mokameh Bridge, which will eliminate the necessity of ferrying across the Ganga *via* this route is in hand, but it is not expected to be ready for at least five years.

FOREIGN REFINERIES

*393. **Shri N. Sreekantam Nair:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the foreign refineries in Bombay have accepted any fixed ratio for recruiting Indian and foreign employees?

(b) If so, what is that ratio?

(c) What is the ratio of the total pay and other emoluments of the foreign and Indian employees in those refineries?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No ratio has been fixed but the arrangement is that the refineries will employ Indians in all capacities whenever qualified Indian personnel are available.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As the refineries have not yet gone into production, and have employed only a small part of their full complement, it is not possible to give an answer at present.

SECOND D.D.T. PLANT

*394. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to establish a second D.D.T. production plant?

(b) If so, where will it be established?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (b). The question of establishing a second D.D.T. plant is in the exploratory stage, and

the question where it could best be located is being investigated.

FRENCH POSSESSIONS

*395. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the present stage of the negotiations with the French Government to pass on the administration of Pondicherry and other French possessions to the administrative control of the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Towards the end of last year, the Government of India proposed to the French Government that negotiations may be started for the direct transfer of these territories to India. It was suggested that the principle of direct transfer should be accepted first and that this should be followed by a transfer of the administration. The matter is still under the consideration of the two Governments.

PETROLEUM PRICES

*396. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam pays the highest price for petrol in India; and

(b) whether Government are looking into the entire question of petroleum prices in India?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

HOUSES FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN U.P.

*397. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state how far the scheme of building houses for displaced persons in U.P. has progressed?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): 12,584 houses/flats, 1,098 shops and 3,142 stalls had been completed by, and 3,241 Houses/flats and 1,855 shops were under construction on the 31st March 1953-