

based on fuel oil as feedstock and is expected to cost about Rs. 225 crores.

Ways to Increase Earnings of Railways

*300. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the Conference held on 30th June, 1976, Government have urged General Managers of all Zones of Railways to devise means to increase earnings of Railways; and

(b) if so, what steps have been suggested by the General Managers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes Sir, the Conference was held on 30th July, 76 and not on 30th June, 1976.

(b) The general consensus was that more traffic should be attracted by improving the quality of service

Handling Work of Coal and Ash in the Railways

*301 SHRI RAMAVTAR SHASTRI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the handling work of coal and ash in the Railways is being done by the contract labour,

(b) if so, what is the rate of wages paid to such labour by the contractors at various centres of the Railways,

(c) whether the contractors are not paying them wages according to the Minimum Wages Act, and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

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

work is also performed departmentally by the railways and by Labour Co-operative Societies of actual workers

(b) The contracts require the contractors to pay their employees at rates fixed by the Local Civil Authorities for similar work in the neighbourhood.

(c) and (d) The coal and ash handling work on the Railways is not covered by the Minimum Wages Act and hence the question of paying wages under this act does not arise.

Sanction for Fertilizer Plants

*302. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) which fertilizer plants have been sanctioned so far,

(b) what is the location, capacity and estimate of each of them, and

(c) when will the construction work be started and when will it be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C SETHI): (a) to (c). A statement giving the requisite details in respect of the projects under implementation is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-11314/76]

Distribution of canalised items by IDPL

2064 SHRI NANUBHAI N. PATEL: Will the Ministry of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether distribution of canalised items by IDPL is also governed by Import Trade Control policy which does not permit combining of indigenous production;

(b) whether IDPL not required to maintain separate profit accounts on imported drugs and indigenous drugs supplied by them; and

(c) in how many cases during the past three years IDPL's indigenous production fell short of targets and higher imports were resorted to and the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b): Distribution of canalised items is governed by the Import Trade Control Policy in force from time to time. According to the current policy release orders for 11 items in the canalised list of drugs are issued to the actual users by the sponsoring authorities on IDPL. This public sector agency distributes not only their own production of these items but also imported material. Imports are arranged only when their indigenous production is not adequate. These are arranged by State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd. and are handed over to IDPL for distribution to actual users against release orders issued by the sponsoring authorities.

Present availability is adequate for 5 drug items out of 11 items in the distribution range of IDPL. For the remaining six drug items indigenous availability is supplemented through imports to the extent of shortfall in the total demand. Pooled prices are in operation for these six items and are fixed on the basis of the weighted average of imported price and indigenous price both of which are fixed by the BICP. If any surplus or deficit arises because of changes in the quantum of import or quantum of indigenous production, such surpluses or deficits are adjusted in the following year. For the period 1974-75 and 1975-76, IDPL has reported a deficit of Rs. 29 lakhs on the total pool operation.

(c) Details of items of drugs where there was shortfall in production and

higher imports were arranged are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11315/76].

Manufacture of formulations allowed to drug firms in Indian sector

2065. SHRI BHALJIBHAI PARMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many drug companies in Indian sector have been allowed manufacture of formations based on Indigenous imported or canalised raw materials during last three years and basis on which such approvals were given;

(b) how many companies have not been allowed manufacture of formulations based on indigenous/imported/canalised raw materials during this period and basis for rejection of their proposals; and

(c) how will Government reconcile its policy so as to allow expansion and growth of Indian sector specially when foreign companies are producing large number of formulations without industrial approvals?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). During 3 years ending 31st March, 1976, 24 Indian companies have been granted Letters of Intent/Industrial licences for manufacture of drug formulations based on indigenous/imported/canalised raw material. These cases were finalised with the approval of Licensing Committee taking into consideration the essentiality of the formulations, foreign exchange requirement for raw materials and existing production facilities with the companies. During the same period, applications of 19 Indian companies for production of formulations were rejected by the Licensing Committee as they did not satisfy the conditions for grant of approvals.