

(c) Traffic density on the Adra-Kharagpur section is too low to qualify the section for electrification, which is capital intensive. Therefore, the investment in the project is not considered financially justified.

Conversion of Bankura and Rai Nagar Line into Broad Gauge Line (South Eastern Railway)

3225. DR. BIJOY MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision is being taken or likely to be taken in connection with the conversion of the narrow gauge railway line between Bankura and Rai Nagar in the South-Eastern Railway; and

(b) whether there is a proposal for extension of the rail line from Rai Nagar to Tarkeshwar in Eastern Railway at the time of the conversion as referred to in part (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). It is not possible to take up these projects at present on account of paucity of resources.

Short Supply of Raw Material to National Organic Chemical Industries

3226. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Organic Chemical Industries have pointed out that during the first five months of 1977 the company's turnover has been about Rs. 23.25 crores as compared to Rs. 24.53 crores in the same period last year;

1459 L.S.—5.

(b) if so, whether this shortfall in the turnover has been due to short supply of raw material and strikes;

(c) if so, steps being taken by Government to help the company;

(d) whether the company has plans to develop indigenous technology and has applied for industrial licences; and

(e) if so, whether Government have considered their application for issuing the licences?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The short-fall in turnover was caused by Bulk Tank Lorry Operators Strike during the later part of May, 1977 which resulted in ultimate short-fall in production.

(c) The Company's application for Import of Capital Goods for stabilising production has been cleared by the Capital Goods Committee.

(d) and (e). The Company has plans to develop indigenous technology for the manufacture of Pesticides. A letter of Intent for its manufacture has been issued to the party.

Arrest of Presiding Officer in Punjab

3227. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
DR. HENRI AUSTIN:

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

(a) whether it has been reported in the press that one Presiding Officer in the recent elections to Punjab Assembly was arrested on the ground that 50 ballot papers were recovered from him;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter;