

(c) The crude oil requirements of the country for 1978-79 are estimated to be about 27.00 million tonnes out of which about 15.00 million tonnes are expected to be imported.

Proposal to start Sangam Express from Saharanpur

2733. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to start Sangam Express from Saharanpur instead of Meerut?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): No.

Strike Notice

2734. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received strike notice memorandum, charter of demands, resolutions from various Railway trade union, federations and organisations so as to fulfil their demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government propose to take against the strikes if strike happen to materialise;

(d) what were the demands during 1974 strike and what are the demands at present and what differences are there between the demands of 1974 and present one; and

(e) how many such demands have been fulfilled till todate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). No strike notice has been received so far.

The Working Committee of one Federation to which one group of recognised unions of railway employees is affiliated has called upon its affiliated unions to hold meetings of appropriate bodies in accordance with

their respective constitutions for ratifying strike ballot decision and complete this work by the end of April, 1978.

The General Council of another Federation to which another group of recognised unions is affiliated has called upon its affiliated unions to convene meetings by the end of March 1978 to discuss issues in connection with a general strike and make specific recommendations on the nature of struggle to be undertaken for the consideration of the Federation's General Council/Working Committee so that a date for the strike ballot could be fixed.

In addition, it has been noticed that other unions have also been passing resolutions for direct action, etc.

There have been discussions with both the recognised Federations and the Government's stand on various issues raised has been explained in great detail. Decisions on a number of issues have already been taken and announced.

Discussions have also been held by the Minister for Railways with some M.Ps. and certain other representatives of staff.

Government is keeping a watch and wish to assure that the door for discussions and negotiations is always open. Government do not wish to pre-judge the issue now itself on the assumption that a strike will materialise.

(d) and (e). In 1974, there was a charter of 6 demands. In the recent past, the two recognised Federations have each drawn up their own charter of 10 demands, some of those demands being overlapping.

The 6 demands of 1974 are:—

(i) Bonus;

(ii) Dearness Allowance;

(iii) Parity in wages with other Central Government undertakings;