

**Bottleneck in Promotions of Army Officers**

78. SHRI RUDOLF RODRIGUES: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a bottleneck in the promotion of Army Officers beyond the rank of Major because of inadequate promotion prospects; and

(b) what immediate steps Government plans to take to meet this situation especially in the light of the comparatively disadvantageous situation the armed forces officers face *vis-a-vis* the I.A.S. officers in the matter of promotion prospects?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGGIVAN RAM): (a) and (b). There was a significant step-up in the intake of officers in the Army, following the 1962 conflict as a consequence of which a congestion is developing in the rank of Majors.

Appropriate remedial action is under active consideration to relieve possible stagnation and to ensure reasonable promotion prospects.

It will be appreciated that any solutions in this behalf will need to be devised within the framework of Service-structures, functional requirements and terms and conditions of service which are peculiar to the Defence forces.

**Safety of Taj Mahal**

79. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would affirm that the Taj Mahal is fully protected and made absolutely safe from the damaging effects of pollutants

emitted from the Mathura Refinery and numerous industrial units in and around Agra; and

(b) whether Government would give paramount importance to the maintenance of the nation's proudest monument in its immaculate beauty, whatever the cost it may entail, including the shifting of the Refinery and the smelting plant to other centres?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Government are keenly aware of the danger posed to the Taj Mahal by gaseous pollutants emitted by industrial units in and around Agra, and are determined to do all in their power to protect this great monument from suffering any damage on this score. It was in this connection that Government had appointed a Committee of experts to go into the likely impact on the Taj of the Mathura Refinery, which is expected to go into operation in the 3rd quarter of 1980, and to guide the Mathura Refinery Project authorities in planning and implementing effective control measures. The Committee's report has already been placed before the House. The Committee has recommended a number of anti-pollution measures to be adopted by Mathura Refinery. It has also made certain recommendations such as re-location of certain industries, phasing out the thermal power plants, replacement of coal fired locomotives by diesel locomotives in the marshalling yard etc. at Agra. The Committee's report is at present under the active consideration of the Government.

(b) As mentioned earlier, all efforts would be made to ensure that the Taj Mahal is preserved irrespective of the cost entailed. However, in view of the comparatively very small contribution which pollutants from the Refinery are likely to make to the environment in Agra and the various protective measures which has either already been taken or are under consi-

deration, it is not considered necessary to shift the refinery to another site.

#### Fire in the Jealgorah Colliery

80. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fire in the Jealgorah colliery of B.C.C.L. in Dhanbad resulting in the closing down of the total mine, if so, details of it;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the costly machines and equipments were removed from the mines though the management got seven days time for fighting the fire, if so, details of the machines left underground and their costs;

(c) whether there was a silent march of all the workmen of Jealgorah colliery to the Head Quarters of the BCCL in Dhanbad to protest against this murder of mines; and

(d) do the Government propose to make a probe into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The fire was detected on 12-1-1979 and the mine was sealed on 21-1-1979 due to the fire fighting operation not being successful. Conveyors, creepers, ventilation fans, haulages, tippers, etc., with a value of about Rs. 40 lakhs were left underground as all appliances used for raising had to be kept free for fire control operations and for safety of men engaged in the work. The entire operations were conducted by Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. in association with the Director General, Mines Safety, Central Mining Research Station, Rescue Stations and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. However, the machinery and equipment are likely to be recovered when the mine is reopened.

(c) There was a march of workmen from Jealgorah colliery to headquarters of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. in Dhanbad,

(d) Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. have been instructed to appoint a committee to go into the matter. This committee will include representations of Director General, Mines Safety, the Central Mining Research Station and the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. management.

#### COB Licences obtained by Foreign Drug Firms with more than 26 per cent Equity

81. SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hathi Committee had observed that foreign drug firms with more than 26 per cent equity had obtained COB licences for several items in 1970-1973 without making any reference under diversification during 1966-1970;

(b) details of COB licences approved for such firms; items, reference to D.G.T.D. if any, capacities approved and production during last three years; and

(c) under how many COB licences some items are manufactured without valid industrial licences for which canalised raw materials are allocated with reasons for such allocations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The Hathi Committee observed that most of the foreign companies which granted COB Licences did not inform the DGTD of the particulars of the diversification activities including their revised manufacturing programme and the new articles proposed to be manufactured and the value of the minor balancing plant, if any, added by them.