

**Petro-Chemicals Complex at  
Bongaigaon**

4877. SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no progress in the construction of Petro-chemicals complex at Bongaigaon; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government have taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Preliminary works connected with the project such as evaluation of the process for manufacture of DMT, land acquisition, water and soil surveys, are already in hand. The Government is keeping a close watch to ensure speedy implementation of the complex.

**Assistance to State Electricity Board  
to supply of Electricity in Drought  
Prone Areas**

4878. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of—

(i) giving aid to State Electricity Boards to enable them to provide electricity in drought prone areas at half the normal rates; and

(ii) exempting the consumers of electricity in drought prone areas from paying the annual compulsory charges; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) and (b). The Centre has no scheme for providing assistance directly to the State Electricity Boards to enable

them providing electricity at reduced rates in drought prone areas. However, the Rural Electrification Corporation provides funds to the State Electricity Boards for the purpose of rural electrification in backward areas under concessional terms. Susceptibility to drought is one of the criteria for classifying the area as 'backward area'.

In most of the States relief in the minimum consumption 'guarantee charges is given when drought conditions occur and enough water in the wells is not available for the consumer to utilise the pumping sets to the extent of minimum consumption guarantee.

**Arrest of sixteen wagon Breakers  
between Bhadrak and Ranital Rail-  
way Stations of South Eastern  
Railway**

4879. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that sixteen wagon breakers have been caught by the OCRPF/BHC and Inspector/RPF-CTC while indulging in theft and pilferage in between Bhadrak and Ranital Railway stations of Khurda Road/Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the articles which have been seized by the R.P.F.; and

(c) whether Government are aware that great tension is prevailing in the locality, if so, what steps Government have taken to protect the Railway staff against the wrath of the gangsters?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) Yes. On 28th November, 1972, nineteen persons were arrested by Railway Protection Force staff of Bhadrak.

(b) 68 galvanised iron pipes, 32 iron rods and 3 bearing springs were seized from them.