

Hospital Steward, Packer and Pharmacists Grade (A and B) shown in the new Medical Manual published recently are actually in existence on the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the Railway-wise distribution thereof along with the pay scale attached to each category; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the non-implementation of the Medical Manual and the expected time by which it will be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Not all categories *viz.* Head Clerk Procurement, Hospital Store Keeper, Hospital Steward, Packer are manned by Pharmacists. It is also not mandatory to create posts in all the categories mentioned in the Medical Manual on each Zonal Railway. Posts are created according to the need of each Zonal Railway.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question above.

Exploitation of the provisions of Law regarding maintenance

1052. **SHRI P. VENKATASUB-BAIAH:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the efforts made to prevent the exploitation of various statutory provisions of the Law regarding Maintenance by wives to harass their husbands and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): The matter is under examination.

Launching of a Five-Year Crash Programme by Oil and Natural Gas Commission

1053. **SHRI P. VENKATASUB-BAIAH:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission submitted for the approval of Government a proposal to launch a five-year crash programme to double its oil production; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposal stands at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the Plan, ONGC expects, *inter alia*, to establish enough additional recoverable reserves of Crude Oil, to enable it to increase its present annual production from slightly over 4 million tonnes to 8 million tonnes by the end of that Plan.

(b) The Plan, which based on the techno-economic study jointly conducted by a team of ONGC and Soviet experts, has been examined by the Government and its preliminary views have been made known to the ONGC. The Government is now awaiting the result of the discussions which the ONGC has recently been having with a Soviet Oil Delegation regarding the Soviet assistance towards implementation of this Plan, before taking a final decision.

Employment of persons on new Railway lines sanctioned for drought affected areas in various States

1054. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:**
SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board has sanctioned a number of new Rail lines