

affected as a result thereof during the last three months; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). On an average, 30 pairs of passenger carrying trains were cancelled daily on Samastipur Division during 3 months ended March 1974, on account of difficult coal position, staff strikes/agitations and public agitations. It is not possible to indicate the number of passengers affected as a result of cancellation of these trains.

Negotiations with three Federations of Railway Employees

9388. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three Central Federations of the Railway Employees have been negotiating for the acceptance of the minimum demands of the employees;

(b) if so, result of the negotiations;

(c) whether the three federation have been approached with the proposal of one Union on each Railway to be decided by secret ballot; and

(d) if so, their reaction, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QUREHI): (a) and (b) The negotiations held with the Labour Organisations and the results of negotiations have been the subject matter of a statement made by the Minister for Railways on the floor of the House on 2nd May, 1974.

(c) and (d). The Minister for Railways had convened a conference of the office-bearers of All India Railwaymen's Federation and the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen and also representatives of 4 Central Trade Union Organisations, apart from some Hon'ble Members of Parliament taking interest in labour rela-

tions, on 4th February, 1974. At this conference a general consensus emerged, that in order; to have purposful negotiations and settlement between labour and administration, there should be only one Union which could be broad based and popular enough to represent all crafts and categories of Railway workers. The ways and means of achieving the objective of one union in each Railway are receiving consideration. It will naturally take some time to achieve this objective in view of the complicated nature of the issues involved.

Suggestions made by the Minister of Industries, Kerala on Geological Investigations

9390. **SHRI M M. JOSEPH:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala has brought to the notice of the Central Government that a Geologist who has been detailed to carry out Geological investigation in the mud banks off Cochin, has given any indication of two places in Kerala where oil is likely to be found in abundance;

(b) whether an ex-employee of the Burmah Oil Company, Assam has also suggested some places where oil can be explored; and

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to undertake these ventures immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). The Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala wrote to the Minister of Petroleum & Chemicals on 4th March, 1974 inviting reference to two places mentioned by an ex-employee of Burmah Oil Company, Assam, where oil could be found. The places were investigated and found to be not prospective.