

(b) if so, total number of employees who were called for interview and total number of employees who were actually interviewed and name of the posts and number of vacancies for which the above interview was held;

(c) whether the result of the said interview has been declared and if not, the reasons for the delay and the date upto which it is likely to be declared now; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on this interview as cost of the man-days lost and TA/DA paid to the staff called for interview?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Demand from travel agents for withdrawal of excise duty on fuel

6098. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the travel agents have urged Government to withdraw excise duty and sales tax on fuels for the development of tourism; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exploration and development of Geothermal Power during next year

6099. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:
SHRI RAGHUNANDANLAL
BHATIA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for exploration and development of Geothermal Power during the next year; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). A project for exploration and development of Geothermal power is proposed to be taken up with the assistance of UNDP. It envisages preliminary geological, geochemical and geo-physical studies, some of which have been carried out in 1973-74 and the rest will be carried out in 1974-75. Further detailed studies of two areas viz. Manikaran hot springs area in Himachal Pradesh and West Coast hot spring belt in Maharashtra will also be carried out. Evaluation drilling will be carried out to assess the geothermal potential of the area, and if the exploration is successful, geothermal power projects will be taken up.

Exploration to determine the geothermal potential of the Puga Valley in Ladakh is also proposed to be carried out in 1974-75

Efforts of Railway authorities to remove coal stocks piled up at Jharia coal-fields

6100 SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that coal stocks are piling up at Jharia coal-fields because of the failure on the part of Railways to ensure steady movement of stocks to the consuming centres; and

(b) if so, the salient features regarding the efforts Railway authorities have made to move these stocks?