

considered for regular posts as and when vacancies arise but the absorbing potential against regular posts is limited.

**Strike by Junior Engineers in U. P.**

3666. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR :

SHRI P. M. MEHTA :

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

(a) whether 22,000 Junior Engineers have been on an indefinite and general strike since January 10, 1974, in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether a similar strike has also been spreading in other parts of the country; and if so, to what extent it has affected the States; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the striking engineers' demands ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A majority of about 15,000 Junior Engineers working in all the Engineering Departments in Uttar Pradesh (including the State Electricity Board) went on strike from 10th January, 1974.

(b) Information received from various States indicates that the strike has not affected other States.

(c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh is the competent authority to deal with the matter.

**Inadequate crude oil supply to Refineries**

3667. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:

SHRI K. MALLANNA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the oil Refineries in India are operating far below their capacity for want of adequate crude supply thereby causing a huge loss; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). All the four inland refineries which are based on indigenous crude oil are processing the entire quantities of indigenous crude oil being supplied to them from the oil fields in Assam and Gujarat. Barauni Refinery is also now processing 0.5 to 0.6 million tonnes per annum of imported Iraqi crude oil in addition to indigenous Assam Crude.

As regards the five coastal refineries which are based on imported crude oil, only Cochin Refinery is operating below its capacity due to a combination of factors, including difficulties in making crude oil transport arrangements. These difficulties are being progressively overcome.

**Prescribed Yardstick for Artisan Staff in T. L. Is, Power Houses and Head Light in Electrical Department on Indian Railways**

3668 SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be to state :

(a) whether there is any yardstick prescribed for provision of artisan staff in T. L. Is Power Houses and Head Light in Electrical Department on Indian Railways;

(b) whether there is any prescribed percentage of posts in Skilled, Semi-skilled and Unskilled Cadres in Electrical Department;

(c) whether staff have provided according to the prescribed yardstick; and if so, the percentages on Eastern Railway separately for T. L. Is Power Houses and Head Lights Sections in Electrical Department; and

(d) broad features of the prescribed yardstick and percentages for each section in Electrical Department on Eastern Railway ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No

yardstick has been prescribed by the Railway Board. The Railways have evolved their own guidelines.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Payment of T. B. Allowance to Medical Staff in T.B. Ward, Railway Hospital, Danapur (Eastern Railway)**

3669. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Medical staff working in T. B. Ward of Railway Hospitals are paid T. B. Allowance;

(b) whether T. B. Allowance is not being paid to the Medical staff working in T.B. Ward in Danapur Railway Hospital on Eastern Railway for the last few years; and

(c) whether there is any yardstick for Nurses, Attendants and Safaiwalas attached to beds in Railway Hospitals ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is a yardstick for creation of posts of Nurses only and not for Attendants and Safaiwalas.

#### **Coal Supply to Power Plants**

3670. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coal-operated power plants in the country are facing closure on account of coal shortage ;

(b) whether this has resulted in decline in power production in recent months ; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to supply coal to those plants and the Present position in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT) :

(a) Though the general level of coal stocks in the thermal power stations has gone down, in some cases, even to a level of 1—2 days consumption, by and large, no power station had to shut down or restrict the generation for reasons of non-availability of coal.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. However, sustained efforts are being made jointly with the Department of Mines and the Ministry of Railways to maintain coal supplies to the power stations :

(i) A Standing Linkage Committee has been set up in the Department of Mines to review the monthly allocation of coal to power stations.

(ii) A Control Room has been set up in the Ministry of Railways to review the daily supply and stocks of coal at different power stations.

(iii) A Joint Cell has been created at Calcutta to review the loading and allotment of wagons for movement of coal to thermal power stations.

#### **Acceptance of demands of North Eastern Railway Mazdoor Union, Samastipur.**

3671. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2393 on the 27th November, 1973 regarding demonstration by North Eastern Railway Mazdoor Union at Samastipur on 30th October, 1973 and state :

(a) which of the demands mentioned in the reply have by now been conceded, implemented or rejected ; and

(b) the reasons therefor ?