

Effect of shortage of Wagons in Movement of Essential Commodities

825. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to shortage of Railway Wagons the essential commodities could not reach in time to the scarcity areas; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to supply more wagons to Indian Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Movement of essential commodities like foodgrains, fertilisers and petroleum products are given the highest priority in movement by Railways. The movement of the same has been satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Coal-Based Chemicals

826. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop coal-based chemicals as an alternative to Petro-chemicals to overcome the oil crisis; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) There are no firm proposals.

(b) Does not arise.

Talcher Coal-Based Fertilizer Plant

827. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal-based fertilizer plant at Talcher (Orissa) is facing difficulties in getting materials like Cement and steel; and

(b) if so, what components involving foreign exchange, indicating the extent thereof, are needed and the time by when the plant is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The general shortage of the materials referred to has, to some extent, affected the schedules of the various projects, including Talcher. Every effort is being made to overcome this difficulty. The Talcher plant is scheduled to go into commercial production by January 1976.

Locating of a drug unit at Kerala Under Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

828. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH:
SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:

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

(a) whether Government have finalised their decision to locate one of the proposed drug units of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited at Kerala; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision and when it was taken?

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

(b) Does not arise.