

**Electrification of Railway Lines**

907. SRDI FATEHSINGHRAO 'GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many kilometres of Railway lines have been electrified during the last year; and

(b) how many new lines are going to be electrified during the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHMFI QURESHI): (a) 123 route kilometres during 1973.

(b) Miyagam-Virar section (route kilometres 314) of the Western Railway and Panchkura-Haldia section (route Kilometres 69) of the South Eastern Railway, are expected to be brought under electric traction during the current year.

**Provision of means of Communication to various Unions**

908. SHRI S M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to provide means of communication to the various unions category-wise;

(b) whether one of the reasons for various strikes is lack of forum for negotiations; and

(c) if so, when a final decision about means of communications is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) All categories of staff are duly represented by the recognised federations, which are unitary organisations. These recognised federations and

through them all categories have got ample opportunities to represent their grievances and these are solved through the negotiating machinery which is functioning at various levels on the Railways. It is not possible to give a channel of communication separately to each category, considering that there are over 700 such categories on the Railways, as such a step will lead to complete confusion and disruption of Railway working. However, if any category sends any representation, this is also considered and suitable action is taken.

(b) No.

(c) Question does not arise.

**"Work-to Rule" call by all India Train Examiners Association**

909. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All-India Train Examiners Association resorted to 'work-to-Rule' from the mid-night of 30th January, 1974 for redressal of their grievances;

(b) if so, whether they have submitted their 8-point Charter to the Railway Administration, and if so, reaction of the Railway Ministry thereto; and

(c) whether any negotiations with them are taking place, and if not, the reasons for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) The 8-point Demand Charter has been received. Such issues are raised from time to time by recognised labour organisations and are settled through discussions in the meetings of the PNM and the JCM at di-

fferent levels. Further, representations coming from any source including unrecognised unions, are given due consideration and action as deemed fit is taken. Whatever demands are presented to the administration are given due consideration with the utmost sympathy taking into consideration factors like financial resources, framework of rules and regulations, justification for accepting the demand and the repercussions of their acceptance.

(c) No direct negotiations are being carried out with the All India Train Examiners Association as no such treatment can be accorded to the unrecognised category-wise association.

**Steps to improve Distribution machinery for Petrol, Gas and Kerosene**

910. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the distribution machinery of petroleum, gas and kerosene oil in the country at present requires much improvement; and

(b) if so, improvements suggested by Government and when these are going to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). By and large the existing machinery for the distribution of oil products including cooking gas and kerosene oil is considered adequate. Whenever there are local or temporary scarcities, the State Governments/Union Territories are kept informed so that they may ensure equitable distribution of products within the statutory powers conferred upon them in terms of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act. However, the State Government/Union Territories have been requested to take all possible mea-

asures to equitably distribute the available supplies. In the case of sensitive commodities like kerosene oil, the quantities likely to be available on the monthly basis are also intimated to the State Governments/Union Territories. Additionally, to augment the distribution network of kerosene oil, the oil companies have recently started the sale of kerosene oil directly to the consumers through some of their existing retail outlets selling motor gasoline and diesel oil. This facility is being progressively augmented.

**Settlement on Demands of IDPL Employees**

911. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the demands of the employees of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Rishikesh, are still pending for a negotiated settlement;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to settle the same; and

(c) whether any negotiations are taking place with the representatives of the recognized unions, and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) and (c). There are under consideration in consultation with the management who are also holding discussions with the Union on certain issues.

**Differences with Finance Ministry on Petrol Rationing**

912. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of PETRO-