

(a) whether Government have any proposal to discontinue appointments of any retired judges of the Supreme Court or of any High Court to any office under the Central or State Government or Public Undertaking or Government companies, including Commissions; and

(b) whether Government are considering steps to improve the service conditions of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts and if so, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Bill to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 and a Bill to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 have been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8-5-75.

#### Decision on lowering of voting Age

1252. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:  
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN;

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how long will Government take to finalize the decision regarding the granting of right to vote at age of 18;

(b) names of the countries in the world where voting right is given to the people at 18 or below 18; and

(c) what is the reason for delay in taking the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. V. A. SEVID MUHAMMAD): (a) and (c). Government will take further time to arrive at a decision having regard to some difficulties which may arise *inter alia* on account of the enlargement of the electorate, the electoral arrangements these would necessitate, etc.

(b) According to available information, people of the following countries are eligible to vote at the age of 18:—

Albania, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Ecuador, Great Britain, Hungary, Poland, Israel, Italy, Laos, Mexico, North Korea, Paraguay, Rumania, Salvador, Somalia, Soviet Union, Sudan, United States of America (for Federal Elections only), Venezuela, Vietnam and Yugoslavia.

#### Control over Fertilizer Plants by the Fertilizer Corporation of India

1258. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the nature of control exercised by the Fertiliser Corporation of India over the production and distribution of fertiliser, in India; and

(b) which of the fertiliser plants are directly under its control and what is their production during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). The Fertilizer plants under the control of the Fertilizer Corporation of India and the production of fertilizers by these

plants during the last three years are as under:—

Unit	Production		
	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Sindri . . .	66.3	69.6	67.1
Nagari . . .	53.7	61.9	40.6
Trombay . . .	69.8	64.5	66.6
Namrup . . .	34.8	36.2	40.0
Gorakhpur . . .	69.3	64.2	72.8
Durgapur . . .	..	..	11.4*
<b>TOTAL</b> . . .	<b>293.9</b>	<b>296.4</b>	<b>298.5</b>
Trombay P205	37.0	32.0	31.6

\*Durgapur plant went into commercial production w.e.f. 1-10-74; the production indicated above is for the period 1-10-74 to 31-3-75.

While the Fertilizer Corporation of India controls fully all aspects relating to production in their plants listed above, the fertilizers produced by these units are distributed according to the State-wise allocations made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation under the Essential Commodities Act.

#### Maintenance of Electrical Passenger Coaches

1254. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the poor state of maintenance of Electrical passenger coaches in the Sealdah and Howrah Divisions of Eastern Railway and the Kharagpur-Howrah Divisions of South Eastern Railway; and

(b) the steps taken to repair them and to protect them against pilferage of fittings like fans and lights?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): It is presumed that the Question is for the defects and deficiencies of amenities on suburban coaches. In that case, the reply is:

(a) Yes; and

(b) The defects and deficiencies are mainly, confined to Eastern Railway and are on account of miscreant activities. All possible steps have been taken to repair/maintain EMU coaches/equipment in Car sheds and in Workshops. Appropriate anti-theft and security measures such as escorting of trains by RPF personnel, carrying out surprise raids at affected yards and at the receivers' godowns and shops, intensified guarding of EMU coaches and carsheds and liaison with the State Police, CID, etc for mopping up criminals under MISA, are being carried out.

#### Warning to Petrol Dealers by M.R.T.P. Commission

1255. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has warned the petrol dealers against extra charges; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission passed an order on the 19th of November, 1975 in the inquiry proceedings instituted by it in April, 1974 against the President of the Petrol Dealers' Association, Bombay (Respondent No. 1) and the Hon. Secretary of the Association (Respondent No. 2) and others, prohibiting and restraining them from charging