

based on fuel oil as feedstock and is expected to cost about Rs. 225 crores.

Ways to Increase Earnings of Railways

*300. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the Conference held on 30th June, 1976, Government have urged General Managers of all Zones of Railways to devise means to increase earnings of Railways; and

(b) if so, what steps have been suggested by the General Managers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes Sir, the Conference was held on 30th July, 76 and not on 30th June, 1976.

(b) The general consensus was that more traffic should be attracted by improving the quality of service

Handling Work of Coal and Ash in the Railways

*301 SHRI RAMAVTAR SHASTRI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the handling work of coal and ash in the Railways is being done by the contract labour,

(b) if so, what is the rate of wages paid to such labour by the contractors at various centres of the Railways,

(c) whether the contractors are not paying them wages according to the Minimum Wages Act, and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Thi

work is also performed departmentally by the railways and by Labour Co-operative Societies of actual workers

(b) The contracts require the contractors to pay their employees at rates fixed by the Local Civil Authorities for similar work in the neighbourhood.

(c) and (d) The coal and ash handling work on the Railways is not covered by the Minimum Wages Act and hence the question of paying wages under this act does not arise.

Sanction for Fertilizer Plants

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

(a) which fertilizer plants have been sanctioned so far,

(b) what is the location, capacity and estimate of each of them, and

(c) when will the construction work be started and when will it be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). A statement giving the requisite details in respect of the projects under implementation is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-11314/76]

Distribution of canalised items by IDPL

2064 SHRI NANUBHAI N. PATEL: Will the Ministry of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether distribution of canalised items by IDPL is also governed by Import Trade Control policy which does not permit combining of indigenous production;