
(i) No. of notices issued to beneficiaries	:	7,89,518
(ii) No. of notices served	:	5,09,470
(iii) No. of beneficiaries identified	:	4,00,323
(iv) Accounts opened	:	3,99,110.

Grievances of Group 'B' Railway Officers

751. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken steps recently to solve the grievances of Group 'B' Railway Officers including their cadre review; and

(b) if so, details of the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). The main grievances of Indian Railway Group B officers are:

- (i) Abolition of discrimination between Group A and B Officers in the matter of pay scales;
- (ii) Removal of anomalies in the matter of allotment of scales of Group B and highest Group C cadre;
- (iii) Restoration of Concordance Table for the purpose of fixation of pay;
- (iv) Restructuring of Group B (Class II) Gazetted cadre of the Indian Railways and career planning for them;
- (v) Implementation of recommendations under Para 23.11 of the Fourth Central Pay Commission by way of giving

effective share against the Group A cadre strength.

All these issues have been examined from time to time and the position has been appraised to the Federation. All these matters relate to Central Government's decisions which are equally applicable to all Government Departments.

Electrification of Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Line

752. SHRI Y.S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to electrify Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated cost of the project and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Petrol/Diesel Pumps in Maharashtra

753. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of petrol/diesel pumps proposed to be opened in Maharashtra this year;

(b) whether any reservation has been provided for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons, freedom fighters etc. in their allotment; and

(c) if so, the number of petrol/diesel pumps allotted to the persons belonging to the said categories during 1989-90, separately?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) 82 new Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlet dealerships have been planned in Maharashtra. However, in view of various steps preceding commissioning of a Retail Outlet, it is not possible to indicate how many of these would be actually set up in 1990-91.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The information is as follows:

Category	Number
SC/ST	10
PH	08
FF	Nil

[English]

Soviet Assistance to Bakreshwar Power Plant

754. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet experts visited Bakreshwar Thermal Plant Project recently;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Soviet assistance has been given to the Bakreshwar project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) to (d). A Soviet Delegation comprising of Experts in Soil Mechanics, Structural Engineering and Specialist in Hydro Dynamics visited Bakreshwar site on 14th December, 1990 for a day. The visit was inter-alia intended to get an idea of the work done on the site in relation to the proposed Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project (3x210 MW). The Soviet assistance for the Bakreshwar TPP will be given to the West Bengal Government after the final contract is signed with the Soviet Authorities on the basis of the detailed project report including prices, which are under preparation by the concerned Soviet agencies.

[Translation]

Flaring of Natural Gas

755. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI PHOOLCHAND VERMA:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI MONORANJAN SUR:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR
MALHOTRA:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY
RAMACHANDRAN:

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

(a) the estimated volume and value of Natural gas flared in different parts of the country per day from 1 December, 1989 to date, separately, and its comparison with gas flared during the last three years;