

of the salt in the water in Sunderbans area; I am thankful to him for that.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** My question was specific. I have said that the salt content in that water is one of the highest in the country and I have asked whether he will conduct a survey immediately so as to recover salt from that water for industrial and other uses. Let him say 'yes' or 'no'.

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA:** Right now we are not doing it on our own in any part of the country. All I can say is that we shall certainly keep in mind the Sunderbans area; whenever a new proposition is thought of, Sunderbans will be considered.

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Shortfall in availability of High Speed Diesel and Kerosene**

\*25. **SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortfall in the indigenous production and availability of high speed diesel and kerosene; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make up the shortfall?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):** (a) Though there has been no overall problem of availability of High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Kerosene in the country some shortages of very brief durations were experienced in certain areas of North-West India during the second half of May, 1977 because of a sudden spurt in demand and problems of transportation caused

by strikes in Koyali (Gujarat) Refinery and Bombay Port which have since been resolved.

(b) Crude throughputs in the Refineries have been increased for the month of June to the extent possible and some additional imports of HSD and Kerosene have been arranged from the Gulf area. Efforts are also being made to import more of these commodities from the Soviet Union under the Indo-USSR Trade Plan during June, 1977. It is expected that as a result of these steps, there will be no shortages of these products.

**Trains on Pathankot-Joginder Nagar Railway Line**

\*27. **SHRI DURGA CHAND:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on Pathankot-Joginder Nagar railway line 4 trains used to run in the recent past;

(b) whether at present only two trains, one Express and the other Passenger, are running on this line causing great hardships to the passengers;

(c) whether Government have received any representation for the restoration of 4 passenger trains on this line; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present 2 pairs of trains, one passenger train and one fast passenger train, are running on this line.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Introduction of a third pair of trains on this section is under examination and action as found justified and feasible would be taken.