

(b) whether it is in accordance with the International Labour Organisation Conventions; and

(c) what is the average duty hours for a guard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAU-DHURI):
(a) No, save in exceptional circumstances like accidents, etc,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ordinarily 10 hours at a stretch; and 104 hours in a two-weekly period.

Demands of the All India Guards Council

354. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AH India Guards' Council has submitted a charter of demands to Government;

(b) if so, the details of the said demands; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAU-DHURI):
(a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The Charter of demands contains 18 demands. A statement showing the comments on each demand is attached. [See Appendix CXXVII, . An-nexure No. 9]

New Alipurduar Railway Station

355. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that West Bengal Government have sent a communication pointing out certain problems at New Alipurduar Railway Station connected with loading of dolomite etc.;

(b) what is the nature of those problems;

(c) the action taken by Government; and

(d) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAU-DHURI):
(a) Yes.

(b) A mention has been made about difficulties in loading of dolomite in rakes due to indiscriminate stacking of coal by some private parties

(c) Instructions have been issued to the N.F. Railway to keep the circulating area clear of coal to allow easy loading of dolomite. Also the construction of full length rake loading siding by M/s. North Bengal Dolomite Ltd. (the company concerned with dolomite loading) is under examination.

(d) Does not arise.

Non-issue of ration cards to labourers

356. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTA-CHARJEE; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that lakhs of labourers working in Delhi were deprived of ration cards; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken to provide ration cards to all the labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD):

(a) and (b) According to Delhi Administration, it is not correct to say that lakhs of labourers working in Delhi have been deprived of food cards. Delhi Administration has liberalised the policy regarding issue of food cards. The persons

whose names appear in the revised electoral rolls and even those living in unauthorised colonies/Government land prior to 1-1-1981 are eligible for issue of food cards.

Delhi Administration had issued temporary permits for rice and resultant atta to labourers employed in the construction work for the IX Asiad. Permits for resultant atta have also been issued to brickkiln workers in Delhi.

Laying of Field channels by farmers

357. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are unable to lay field channels due to shortage of diesel and power;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the situation; and

(c) what steps have been taken to improve capacity utilisation of irrigation potential in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Construction of field channels does not depend upon the availability of diesel and power.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For improving the utilisation of the irrigation potential in major and medium irrigation projects, Centrally Sponsored Scheme of command area development has been taken up in 76 major and medium irrigation projects in the country covering an area of 15 m. ha. in 16 States and one Union Territory.

Shortage of Cement and Coal for irrigation Schemes

358. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of cement and high ash content

coal, various irrigation schemes of the country are likely to be delayed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the Same; and

(c) what corrective steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. While complaints have been received from time to time from various Projects regarding inadequate supply of cement and supply of high ash content coal, it cannot be said that the delay in the construction of irrigation projects has been caused by the above factors alone. The short supply in the case of cement is by and large due to fall in the overall production of cement because of heavy power cuts on Cement factories in the producing States.

Coal is required on the irrigation! projects only for manufacture of bricks for canal lining. There have been complaints for supply of low grade coal for Rajas-than Canal Projects and CAD Projects Although high grade coal is essentially required for Power Houses and for certain, key infra-structural industries, it has now been decided that part of the requirement of coal for the above Projects would be met from Ram Nagar Sidings of Raniganj area for a period of six months up to October, 1983.

Purchase of substandard Medicines by CGHS

359. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH Will the Minister of HEALTH ANE FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Central Government Health Services are purchasing substandard medicines from unregistered suppliers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereto!