

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Sir, the honorable Member is giving me more credit than necessary. He was a party to the construction of this refinery at Mathura. His party's leader was the Prime Minister of this country who laid the foundation stone there. Two-thirds of it are already over. All I want to say is that this Government is now trying to reduce that pollution to a level from where no harm will be done to the Taj Mahal as far as Mathura refinery is concerned. It is our task to mend and it was their task to see that Taj Mahal was protected. They should not have put up the refinery there. All that this Government can do to protect it is to take all possible steps within the reach of man to safeguard this monument of great distinction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of gas-based fertiliser plant at  
Namrup

\*303. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHI-EEN:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM,  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up an additional gas-based fertiliser plant at Namrup is under Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM,  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI  
H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up a 600 tpd ammonia and a 1000 tpd urea plant at Namrup, Assam where there is already a fertilizer plant in operation. The plant will use the associated/free gas available from the oil fields of OIL and the ONGC in

Assam. The feasibility report prepared for this project is under examination for processing the case for an investment decision. M/s. Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. would implement the project and Fertilizers (Planning and Development) India-Ltd, would act as the main contractor. The feasibility report envisages: the completion of the project within a period of 38 months from the date of receipt of all necessary approvals.

Disposal of cases by the Income Tax:  
Appellate Tribunals

\*304. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY A:  
SHRI SITARAM KESRI: SHRI  
DHARAM CHAND JAIN:

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

(a) the number of cases pending: before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunals as on the 31st March, 1978; and

(b) what steps Government propose? to take for the expeditious disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE  
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI  
BHUSHAN): (a) 58,852.

(b) A] possible efforts are being made for expeditious disposal of the appeals pending before the Tribunal. In order to improve the rate of disposal, the Members of the Tribunal have been advised on administrative level;

(i) to exercise to the extent possible the power available to Members to sit singly to dispose of appeals in cases wherein the total income as computed by the Income-tax Officer does not exceed Rs., 40,000/-;

(ii) to dispose of 150 cases or thereabouts per bench per month;

(iii) to observe more strictness in granting adjournment of case;

(iv) to dictate orders in small 1  
cases in open courts;

(v) to dictate orders in other cases  
outside the court-hours or on Saturdays;  
and

(vi) to sit for five hours every day  
for hearing the cases.

'Sanction of cooking- gas connections

\*310. SHRIMATI SAROJ  
KHAPARDE; DR. V.  
P. DUTT:

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

(a) the number of cooking gas con-  
nections sanctioned by Government (during  
the period from the 1st April, 1977 to the 30th  
June, 1978;

(b) the number of applications for  
cooking gas connections rejected during the  
above period and the reasons for rejection  
thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for sanctioning  
out of turn gas connections; and

(d) the number of applications for  
cooking gas connections pending at present?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM,  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI  
H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (d) A statement  
giving the requisite information is laid on the  
Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Applications for cooking gas  
connections are required to be registered with  
the cooking gas distributors of the oil  
companies. The gas connections are released by  
the distributors from amongst those who are  
registered on a 'first-come first-served' basis and  
a waiting list as maintained. There is thus no case  
of rejection of the applications registered. Some  
connections are being released by the  
distributors on priority basis on the advice of  
the oil

companies. Applications for gas connections  
received in the Ministry are passed on to the  
oil companies. In some cases advice is also  
being given to the oil companies by the  
Ministry for such priority connections. As per  
information received from the oil companies,  
about 1.5 lakh gas connections, including  
about 7,600 priority gas connections were re-  
leased by the oil companies during the period  
1st April, 1977 to 30th June, 1978.

(c) Generally, gas connections are given  
on priority to Members of Parliament and  
State Legislatures, other VIPs, foreign  
dignitaries, cases of hardships, commercial  
contacts, Government  
Organisations/Institutions etc.

(d) The number of persons borne on the  
waiting lists of the distributors of cooking gas  
of the oil companies is estimated to be about  
10.5 lakhs.

Cancellation of Suburban Trains at  
Bombay V. T.

\*311. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA; SHRI S.  
W. DHABE; SHRI BAPURAOJI  
MAROTRAOJI DESHMUKH;  
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA  
PANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be  
pleased to state the reasons for the  
cancellation of suburban trains at Bombay  
V.T. on the 26th May, 1978, which led to  
mob violence and lathi charge resulting in  
injuries to a large number of persons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF.  
MADHU DANDAVATE): Sir, on 26-5-1978  
at about 19.55 hours the Karjat local was  
cancelled due to a defective rake and it was  
indicated that the train would leave from  
another platform. This rake was also found  
defective and another rake was arranged from  
a different platform. The commuters got  
agitated and assaulted the Assistant  
Station