

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 the 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 connections 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 oiring th_ 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 Xd) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Applications for cook- 1 ang gas connections are required to 1 ?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 'fir-c-t-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 a-eleased 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