

(iv) to dictate orders in small 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 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 is 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 released 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

Master and Motorman. The Motormen and Guards suspended work as a result till midnight. Some commuters indulged in violence and set fire to a first class coach of a suburban train.

Production in Talcher Fertilizer Project

*312. SHRI T. ANJIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rs. 185 crore Talcher Fertilizer Project is likely to go into production by the end of this year;

(b) what employment potential is likely to be generated after the plant goes into production;

(c) whether there is ready market for the total production from the plant within the Country and abroad; and

(d) what is the estimate of foreign exchange which the plant is likely to earn from its exports?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Some of the sections of the plant are being commissioned and trial production of urea is expected to begin in early 1979.

(b) The total manpower for the project is estimated at 1800.

(c) and (d) There will be no export of fertilizers from the plant and the entire production is meant for consumption within the country. It may be stated that since the demand for fertilizers in the country outstrips indigenous production, imports are arranged to meet the deficit.

Rates of stitching charges for the uniforms of the Railway employees

*313. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the stitching charges paid by Government in respect of

uniforms of the railway employees; and

(b) whether Government propose to pay the amount direct to the staff for getting their uniforms stitched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Rs. 84 lakhs (approximately) annually.

(b) No, Sir.

Criminal cases against Managing Directors of M/s. Shaw Wallace and Company

*314. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB;
BURMAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to starred Question 154 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November 1977 and state:

(a) what is the present position of the criminal cases pending against the Managing Director, Shri A. W. B. Hayward. Shri S. P. Acharya and others, of M/s. Shaw Wallace and Company Limited;

(b) whether Shri Hayward has been allowed to leave the country during pendency of those cases; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have since processed the steps to be taken to remove the directors of the company by starting a case before the High Court for appointment of Directors by Government; and

(d) if so, what is Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.