

**Requirement and production of Fertilizers**

\*22. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MUR-TH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the total requirement of fertilizers in the country during the year 1974-75,

(b) what was the production of fertilizers during the same year; and

(c) what was the total off-take of fertilizers during that year ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(Figures in lakhs of tonnes)

	N	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O
(a)	28.22	9.15	5.24
(b)	11.85	3.27	—

(c) Total off-take of fertilizers in Kharif 1974 and Rabi 1974-75 was 17.66 lakh tonnes of N, 4.71 lakh tonnes of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 3.36 lakh tonnes of K<sub>2</sub>O.

**Kanyakumari-Tirunelveli Railway Line**

\*23. SHRI M. KADER SHAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work on the Kanyakumari-Tirunelveli rail line in the Southern Railway has been stopped for the past one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the work will be resumed and what is the expected time for the completion of the work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Construction work is already in progress. The overall physical progress upto-date is 33 per cent. In view of the very

limited availability of funds for the construction of new rail links, the project is now likely to be completed by 1980.

**20-Point Economic Programme in the Railways**

\*24. SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what concrete measures the Railway Board proposes to take to implement the 20-Point Economic Programme in the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI) : Earnest efforts have been made to improve the entire range of railway performance in pursuance of the 20-point Economic Programme. Principal features are embodied in the statement placed on the Table of the Sabha.

*Statement*

*Measures taken by the Indian Railways to implement the 20-Point Economic Programme announced by the Prime Minister.*

The 20-Point Economic Programme announced by the Prime Minister calls for improved customer service, better performance in the transport of goods, intake of more apprentices for training, economy in expenditure, augmentation of revenue and stoppage of thefts and pilferage of Railway property on the part of the Indian Railways. The various measures taken by the Railways to implement the Programme are as under :—

- (i) Railway operations have improved on all the zonal Railways. All previous loading records have been surpassed and wagons are available promptly on demand. An all time record in daily loading has been established in the month of February when an average of 25900 wagons per day were loaded on the Broad Gauge. Coal loading during the month of February was superb and the daily average number of wagons loaded with coal in all coal fields exceeded 10100 wagons. All major consumers of coal viz. Power

Houses, Steel Plants, Cement Factories and other industries are flush with adequate stocks of coal. Whatever demands are being made for rail transport are being met in full.

- (ii) There has been vast improvement in punctuality of passenger trains which is ranging to 90 per cent and above as compared to about 60 per cent to 70 per cent last year. Special attempts were made to fulfil the need for better passenger travel. During the current year, a total of 42 new non-suburban trains were introduced and the runs of 38 non-suburban trains extended involving an additional 11774 train kilometres per day. The needs and comfort of second class passengers have been engaging the attention of the Ministry of Railways as an important step towards ameliorating the travel facilities in this class. The success achieved in the running of the Jayanti Janata Express trains between Delhi and Cochin/Mangalore in early 1973 and between Delhi and Samastipur in November 1973 has led to the introduction of more such trains such as from Delhi to Secunderabad, Bombay to Cochin/Mangalore, Howrah to New Bongaigaon. The frequency of the existing Janata trains has been increased and their runs extended; there are now Janata Express trains running on all major trunk routes such as Bombay to Delhi, Bombay to Madras, Delhi to Madras, Delhi to Calcutta, Madras to Calcutta, Delhi to Jammu, Calcutta to Assam etc. Efforts have been made not only to introduce new Janata Express trains but to increase the frequency of the existing services.

- (iii) In the current year, the maximum number of non-suburban trains

have been introduced and dieselised as compared to any other year in recent memory. As many as 34 diesel locos have been utilised for running of passenger trains which is about half the total production of diesel locos in a year. This dieselisation has helped in providing more comfortable travel and enabled augmentation of the capacity of each train by 3 or 4 bogie coaches.

Determined efforts are being made to combat ticketless travel on the Railways and special checks are being conducted under the supervision of the Minister of State for Railways, the Deputy Minister for Railways, Members of the Railway Board and the General Managers of the zonal Railways.

To effect economy, detailed scrutiny of demands for stores is being done to reduce inventories and thereby avoiding holding up of capital. Consumption of coal has also gone down by reducing the lighting and waiting time and minimising detentions to trains. Steps have also been taken to reduce consumption of electricity on the Railways by way of switching off of standby transformers during off peak hours etc. To ensure reliable power supply to Railways vital installations it has also been decided to set up 3 Thermal Power Stations on the Railways which will run interconnected with the respective state/regional grids for economic operation.

Instructions have been issued to set up a "Shop Council" in each of the Railway Production Unit and a Joint Council for the Production Units as a whole as a measure of workers' participation in Management.

The number of Apprentices being trained on the Indian Railways under the Apprentices Act, 1961 has been stepped up from about 6,000 to about 12,000 annually and its scope enlarged to cover more trades.

Sustained efforts are being made to improve productivity in the Railway Workshops. To minimise the ineffective time, provision is also being made to step up ancillary units for manufacture/repair of sophisticated equipments of the modern high speed stock for the proper maintenance of the rolling stock.

A task force has also been set up on each Railway to speed up Civil Engineering Works affecting the common people such as new level crossings, electrical crossings across Railway tracks, etc.

**Underhand Deals by Phillips Petroleum Co.**

25. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO :

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent Press reports regarding underhand deals by philips Petroleum Co. in India;

(b) whether Government have made any investigation into the allegation that the Philips Petroleum Company used a Swiss Bank account to transfer money to India in connection with the construction of the two Philips factories in India violating Indian Company Laws; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) to (c) Government have no information at present in regard to the facts stated in the news item. According to subsequent Press reports Phillips Petroleum Company has denied the charges.

**Reduction in Crude Oil Prices**

26. SHRI DWIENDRALAL SEN GUPTA :

SHRI OMPRAKASH TYAGI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

whether it is a fact that some oil producing countries have decided to reduce the price of heavy crude oil recently; r.nd

(b) if so, whether Government propose to correspondingly reduce the price of crude oil and petroleum products in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) It is seen from Press reports that the price of heavy crudes has been reduced by some of the countries.

(b) No such proposal is presently under the consideration of Government.

**Production of Industrial Alcohol**

\*27. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN YAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the annual production of industrial alcohol in the country and what are the names of the companies/States who are its major producers ;

(b) what are the names of the industries which ate its main consumers; and

(c) what steps are being taken to in crease production of industrial alcohol in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.