

level crossings and fires in trains. No such accident took place in Madras City on 15-12-1975.

(b) No. There has been no death in train accidents which occurred in the City limits of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta during the period 1-4-75 to 31-12-75.

(c) As failure of human element is the largest single factor responsible for accidents, Safety Organisations set up on the Railways have been engaged in inculcating safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with the running of trains and in ensuring that the staff do not violate safety rules or indulge in short cut methods. Through inquiries are held into all accidents and appropriate remedial measures are taken to prevent recurrence of similar accidents. Technological improvements in the shape of improved signalling and interlocking track circuiting, etc. have also been made to the extent feasible. Since failure of persons other than railway staff is also responsible for causing a number of accidents, publicity campaigns are conducted through various media to educate the public.

Increase of Goods and Passenger Traffic

338. SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether goods and passenger traffic on Railways has shown marked increase between the period from June, 1975 to December, 1975 compared to period immediately preceding;

(b) if so, what are the month-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this increase has surpassed the previous records ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes.

(b) Month-wise details of goods and passenger traffic are as under :

Figures in millions)

Month	Revenue earning goods traffic originating	Approximate number of passengers originating
	1975	1975
April .. .	15.2	210.7
May .. .	15.6	225.5
June .. .	14.6	226.8
July .. .	15.5	229.8
August .. .	16.0	232.9
September .. .	15.2	246.4
October .. .	15.4	245.7
November .. .	16.1	239.7
December .. .	17.2	246.2

(c) Yes.

New Railway Lines in Gujarat

339. SHRI RAMLAL D. PARIKH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new railway lines laid in Gujarat during the last four years;

(b) what is the progress of the scheme of converting metre-gauge line from Viramgam to Veraval into broad-gauge;

(c) whether Government are aware of the transport difficulties being experienced by the industry and business Community of Gujarat at Viramgam and Sabarmati Stations; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Sabarmati Gandhinagar new B.G. line, 28 kms. along, estimated to cost Rs. 2.85 crores, has been laid in Gujarat during the last four years.

(b) Reference is apparently to the Viramgam-Okha/Porbandar M.G. to B.G. conversion. Over-all physical progress achieved on this project is 39 per cent.

(c) and (d) No specific difficulties of industrial and business community have come to notice excepting occasional transshipment problems experienced at Viramgam and Sabarmati transshipment points which are owing to shortage of labour or matching stock. All out efforts are being made to ensure smooth flow of traffic through the above mentioned transshipment points. The problem will get eliminated with the conversion of Viramgam-Okha/Porbandar line to Broad gauge.

Bureau of Petroleum and Chemicals Studies

340. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a Bureau of Petroleum and Chemicals Studies; and

(b) If so, what are the main features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Petroleum Information Service which was set up in June, 1961, was functioning as an organisation providing information on matters concerning petroleum and allied subjects, and also published a Journal called 'Oil Commentary'. The oil industry in India does not bring out any journal which could provide a forum for publication of information about the current developments and advances in the field of Petroleum, its downstream utilisation etc. In view of the increasing importance of the India Oil Industry, it was considered necessary that Oil Commentary should be developed to a level where it can fulfil that role. This in turn called for the strengthening of the Petroleum Information Service so that the publications could have a proper back-up of an information source. The Petroleum Information Service was, therefore re-organised as the Bureau of Petroleum and Chemicals Studies which would cover the entire petroleum field from exploration, production and transportation of crude oil and natural gas to all downstream operations

as well as energy economics. The Board of Management would consist of Chief Executives of nine Public Sector Undertaking in the field of petroleum, petrochemicals and fertilizers. These Public Sector Undertakings would provide necessary financial support to the Bureau. The Bureau has started functioning with effect from 1st September, 1975.

341. [Transferred to the 22nd January 1976.]

Employment of Loyal Workers' sons in the Railways

342. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of loyal workers in the North Eastern Railway who applied for employment of their sons and the number of those who have been given employment upto November 30, 1975.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Number of applications received—8346.

Number of appointments made—411.

Profiteering by Foreign Drug Firms

343. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices charged by multinational drugs companies in India in respect of imported drugs are very much on the higher side than the International firms;

(b) if so, the names of the companies found guilty of such action; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to stop such exorbitant profiteering by the foreign drug firms ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI PRAKASH CHAND B. SETHI) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Imports of raw materials, drugs, drug intermediates other than those canalised through the STC are allowed to all the actual users whether Indian or foreign, from Rupee Currency Areas, General Cur-