

Refund of cash security of vending contractors

1128. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the procedure followed regarding refund of the cash security of vending contractors on expiry of the claimant?

(b) whether it is a fact that an ex-Vending Contractor of the Northern Railway, Shri Arjun Dev has not received refund of his cash security and advance rental charges even after four years of the expiry of his contract, despite numerous letters to General Manager, Northern Railway, Railway Board and a host of lesser functionaries;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for delay in refund; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to end the hardship of the claimant?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH) : (a) The cash security is released after adjusting all outstanding railway dues if the performance has been satisfactory. In other cases like unsatisfactory performance, breach of terms of agreement, etc. the cash security is fore-feited.

(b) No refund of security money is due to Shri Arjun Dev as the same has been forfeited.

Only a sum of Rs. 764/- towards advance rental charges is due to be paid to the party.

(c) The delay was on account of verification of accounts and records at the station.

(d) Action has already been taken to refund the said sum of Rs. 764/- early.

Construction of wells in Gujarat by Oil and Natural Gas Commission

1129. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wells constructed by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Gujarat State for oil exploration;

(b) how many of them have proved failure, Talukawise;

(c) whether the Gujarat Government has requested the ONGC for utilisation of these wells for irrigation purposes;

(d) if so, what action has been taken by the ONGC on their proposals; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above the in the negative what are the reasons for not acceding to their request ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) and (b) Out of 865 wells drilled and tested by the ONGC in Gujarat, 221 wells have been found to be dry; ONGC does not maintain the well statistics Taluka-wise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Curtailement of labour force in Western Railway

1130. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : SHRI S. KUMARAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have affected a direct and indirect curtailement of labour force in the Western Railway resulting in increase in the work load of employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) As a result of completion of some works and deceleration of others, some curtailement of strength of casual labour has become unavoidable.

Indigenous production of fertilizer

1131. SHRI S. KUMARAN : DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the indigenous production of fertilizers will be only about one third of the total requirements according to the latest estimate;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are being taken to meet the shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b) The indigenous production during the year 1974-75 is now expected to be about 12.70 lakh tonnes against the original estimate of 15 lakh tonnes revised to 14.33 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 3.50 lakh tonnes against the original estimate of 4 lakh tonnes revised to 3.63 lakh tonnes