

(c) what are the reasons for delay in commencing work on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The setting up of a fertilizer plant at Paradeep (Orissa) has been approved by the Government in principle and the work on the project is expected to start as soon as the funds and other arrangements are tied up.

Posting of Women Officers in Railway Board

*539. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL :
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHAN-
KAR ADIVAREKAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that women officers in the Indian Railway Accounts Service are not posted in the Offices of the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) No Sir. There is no such policy.

(b) Question does not arise.

General Meeting of Companies attended by Public Trustee

*540. SHRI BHAIRON SINGH SHE-KHAWAT :
SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of annual general meetings of companies in which trust hold shares, held during 1971 to 1974 and the number of such meetings attending by the Public Trust appointed under section 153A of the Companies Act, during the same period.

(b) the number of such meetings attended by other officers of the Department of Company Affairs/Company Law Board on behalf of the Public Trustee and the reasons for which these meetings were not attended by the Public Trustee;

(c) whether Government have laid down any qualifications for the post of Public Trustee; and

(d) if so, how many times the post of Public Trustee has been upgraded or down graded during the period 1971 to 1974?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b). A statement showing the information is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The recruitment and conditions of service of the Public Trustee are governed by the Companies (Public Trustee) Rules, 1973, dated the 24th August, 1973 (GSR 983), a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 17-12-73.

(d) During the period 1971 to 1974 the post of public trustee was neither upgraded nor down-graded.

STATEMENT

	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75 (up to 30-11-74)
Number of general meetings held	220	204	208	146
Number of general meetings attended by the Public Trustee	2	10	13	9
Number of meetings attended by officers of the Department of Company Affairs as proxies of the Public Trustee.	9	5	22	41

Sub-section (2) of section (187-B) provides that the Public Trustee may, instead of himself attending the meeting and exercising the rights and powers, appointed as his proxy an officer of the Government or the Trustee himself to attend such meetings and to exercise such rights and powers in accordance with the directions of the Public Trustee. Sub-section (3) of the said section also enables the Public Trustee to

abstain from exercising the rights and powers conferred on him by this section if in his opinion the objects of the trusts or the interests of the beneficiaries of the trust are not likely to be adversely affected by such abstention. Public Trustee is a statutory authority and he has to exercise his discretion given to him by the said section as to whether he should attend any general meeting himself or through his