

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) As per recent estimates, the Korba Fertilizer Project is expected to cost about Rs. 150 crores.

(b) Expenditure on the project up to the end of December, 1974, is Rs. 4.57 crores.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 4 crores has been made in respect of the project for 1975-76.

Connecting of Damua Colliery with Ghoradongri Railway Station

846. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted to connect the Damua Colliery in Madhya Pradesh with the Ghoradongri Railway Station on the Nagpur-Itarsi section of the Central Railway for quicker and economical supply of coal to the Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what is the progress and the probable time by when the railway line is likely to be completed; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The construction of the branch line from Hirdagarh to Damua (B.G.) of length 14.3 kms. at a cost of Rs 2.25 crores has been included in the Budget for the year 1975-76. The project is expected to be completed by 31st March, 1978.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway accidents throughout the country

847. SHRI S. A. HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail accidents which took place during the years 1973-74 and 1974-75 up to date;

(b) the number of persons killed and disabled in these accidents; and

(c) the amount paid by Government as compensation because of loss of life and property and injuries in these accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) During the period 1st April, 1973 to 20th February, 1975, there were 1,610 train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fires in trains on the Indian Government Railways.

(b) In these accidents 482 persons were killed and 1,631 injured.

(c) An amount of Rs. 7,44,885 has so far been paid as compensation for loss of life and property and injuries in these accidents.

In the case of the Railway employees killed or injured in these accidents, a sum of Rs. 3,10,000 has so far been paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act

India's technical know-how in oil exploration

848. SHRI AWADESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of countries which have asked for India's technical know-how in oil exploration;

(b) the details of the assistance given to each country; and