

No offer has so far been received from the State Government of Kerala regarding free land for these Railway Projects.

Iranian assistance for oil refineries

*316. SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA: SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT : SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI:

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

(a) whether an agreement was signed between India and Iran during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Iran with regard to Iranian assistance for the expansion of certain oil refineries; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Daily and periodic trains

*317. SHRIMATI SARASWATI PRADHAN: SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of daily and periodic trains which were run by the Railways before the May, 1974 strike;

(b) the number of trains cancelled during the strike; and

(c) the number of trains which have still not been resumed and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (c) A total of-1238 pairs of non-suburban passenger trains were running before the May 74, strike out of which 578 pairs of trains were cancelled during the strike period. Only 133 pairs of trains now remain suspended. Restora-

tion of these trains is under active consideration of the Railways and some of them are expected to be re-introduced shortly.

Exploratory well in Himachal Pradesh

*318. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to drill a deep exploratory well at Ram Bushehar site in Nalagarh Tehsil, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of geological surveys two locations have been released for drilling in Himachal Pradesh. One of the locations is at Ramshahr in Solan District and the other at Changer Talai in Bilas-pur District.

Surveys of the area have led to the discovery and delineation of an anticlinal structure. The location at Ramshahr will be drilled upto 4000 metres to test the oil/gas prospects of the structure.

Arrest of motormen of Bombay Division

*319. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of motormen of the Bombay Division of Central Railways arrested under Defence of India Rules for participating in the recent Railway strike; and

(b) the number of motormen who have been suspended and dismissed in the same Division for the same reasons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Sir, fiftyfive only.

(b) Fifteen only.

Non-availability of toilet soaps and detergents in Delhi

*119. SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :
SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :
SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY :
DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD :
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that toilet soaps and detergents are not available in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have gone into the causes of its non-availability; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Reports of some shortage of soaps, but not of synthetic detergents, have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) In the first five months of 1974, the average monthly rate of soap production in the organised sector has been about 7 per cent less than it was in 1973, the figures being as follows :—

Year	Quantity in tonnes			
	Toilet	Carbolic	Laundry	Total
1973	45,376	36,879	1,52,745	2,35,000
1974 (Jan. to May)	18,440	15,150	56,965	90,555

Indian Soaps and Toiletries Markers' Association has represented for increase in the prices of soaps stating that in view of the present unremunerative prices, they are unable to purchase adequate quantities of oils at the prevailing high prices. The representation is being examined.

More than half of the soap production in the country is in small scale sector on which there is no price control.

The production of synthetic detergents in the country has been rising steadily from about 62,000 tonnes in 1972 to 70,000 tonnes in 1973 while

Transferred from the 25th July, 1974.
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production in the first six months of 1974 has been about 42,000 tonnes.

Recurrence of Railway strike

*320. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : SHRI RAJNARAIN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of days for which the recent strike by railway employees continued;

(b) the number of railway employees, who participated in the strike; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to avoid the recurrence of such nation-wide strikes in future?