

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The recent Railway strike continued for 20 days and about 5.5 lakh employees participated in it.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of any such strike on the Railways :

(i) The two recognised Federations on Railways viz. the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen and the All India Railwaymen's Federation already enjoy negotiating facilities under Permanent Negotiating Machinery at different levels. In addition they have another forum viz. Joint Consultative Machinery for the ventilation and redressal of their genuine grievances.

(ii) During the course of the negotiations which took place with these two recognised Federations on Railways, the Government accepted six demands which are in the process of implementation.

(iii) Provisions have been made to reward those railway workers who stuck to their post of duty in face of serious intimidation and physical assault and did not surrender to the threats of strikers.

(iv) Government's policy to deal firmly with any acts of indiscipline and the enforcement of the principle of "No work—No pay", are designed to act as deterrents to any such strike.

Synthetic detergent plant

*321. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given permission to M/s. Balmer-Lowrie to set up a Rs. 1.5 crore synthetic detergent plant; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the source of know-how and the source of purchase of equipment for the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Recovery of demurrage charges from M/s. Rohtas Industries Limited, Dalmia Nagar

*322. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Rohtas Industries Limited, Dalmianagar in Bihar have not paid demurrage of about a crore of rupees due from them during the period from August, 1972 to June, 1973;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not recovering the demurrage charges so far;

(c) what steps Government have taken so far in this regard; and

(d) who are the railway officials responsible for not recovering the amount and what action is being taken against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (d) A sum of Rs. 40,16,000 is outstanding against M/s. Rohtas Industries Ltd., Dalmianagar towards demurrage upto June, 1973. In the meantime the party has made an appeal which is under consideration of the Eastern Railway Administration.