

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?