

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) More than half of the soap production in the country is by the small scale sector. There is no statutory quality control on soaps. The reports have come to Government's notice of soaps being sold with fake brand names of well-known makes. In case of soaps produced by the organised sector except the premium grade toilet soaps, there is an informal price control whereby the Indian Soaps and Toiletries Maker's Association consult Government before making any upward revision in the prices. In the last few months there has been some fall in production of soaps by the organised sector. ISTMA have stated that in view of the present unremunerative prices of soaps, they are unable to purchase adequate quantities of oil at the prevailing high prices. ISTMA's representation for increase in the soap prices in order to enable them to maintain production at optimum level is being examined by Government.

Employment of Casual Labourers

432. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to employ casual labourers in work-shop, loco-shed and other establishments of regular nature;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of casual labourers proposed to be recruited during the current financial year for projects and works other than projects in the rail ways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Casual labourers are employed on the basis of daily/monthly requirements and it is not possible to assess their requirements during a whole financial year.

Shifting of city Booking office at Ranchi

433. SHRI B. R. MUNDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the city booking office of South Eastern Railway was functioning on the main road in Ranchi for the last several years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said city booking office has been shifted to an inconvenient place inspite of the strong protests from persons from all walks of life; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to reconsider the issue in broader interest of the public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes. The City Booking Agency was functioning on the main road from 1-12-1970.

(b) and (c) The contract for the City Booking Agency, which was functioning on the main road, expired after three years and the contractor was not willing to continue further at the old rates. Therefore, the Railway Administration called for fresh applications as per normal procedure and selected a new contractor who had to fix another suitable site for the Agency. The site on the main road did not belong to the Railway and as the old contractor was not prepared to vacate the same, the change of site was inevitable. Representations were received for retention of the present site and against the new site. The new site was inspected by the Railway authorities and it has been found to be quite suitable. A few improvements have also been made in the new site. The Agency has started functioning at the new site from 10-6-1974.