

tenure and if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to appoint the Chief Justice of a High Court out of Judges belonging to the State other than that to which the appointment is to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The present practice is to appoint the most suitable person as the Chief Justice of a High Court, if necessary from outside.

Shortage of Diesel and Kerosene in West Bengal

210. SHRI SADAR AMJAD ALI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that shortage of diesel and kerosene in West Bengal has been causing serious effects in agriculture and industry in the State; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) Due to a steep increase in the demand of diesel oil in the country caused by the failure of winter monsoons, production of kerosene oil had to be deliberately reduced in the refineries to increase the production of diesel oil. Kerosene oil quotas to all States including West Bengal had, therefore, to be cut down to increase the supply of diesel oil. There has been no general shortage of diesel oil in West Bengal except for temporary local shortages caused by rail transport difficulties and problems of logistics. With the commissioning of Maurigram-Rajbandh product pipeline in February, 1974, the diesel oil supplies in the State have improved considerably. Efforts are being made by the Railways to improve tankwagon loading from Sili-guri/New Jalpaiguri also to improve diesel oil supplies in North Bengal.

Overtime Duties in IOC

211. SHRI KALYAN ROY :
SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one-third of the total work-men in the Eastern Region of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Marketing Division) are continuously engaged in overtime duties and the monthly overtime allowances has gone up from about Rs. 1 -25 lacs to Rs. 1 '50 lacs; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps contemplated by Government in the matter?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Loss of Irrigation Water in Canals through Seepage

212. SHRI SADAR AMJAD ALI :
DR. R.K. CHAKRABARTI :
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :
SHRI N.R. CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the percentage of loss of canal water owing to seepage; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to cut down such loss of water by adopting the system of canal lining ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) The seepage losses in canal systems vary widely depending upon various factors such as soil characteristics, climate, canal section and length, life of the canal etc. It is not therefore, possible to make any firm estimates of such losses. These losses in alluvial soil are generally about 45% of the discharge at the canal head, but are much less in retentive soils.

(b) The lining of canal is being done wherever it is economically and technically justified.