

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) By taking over the management of the Company under Section 18(A) of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 in May, 1972, Government has already safeguarded the interests of the employees of the company.

Circular Railway in Calcutta

1004. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated expenditure on the Circular Railway in Calcutta; and

(b) by when the same is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) There is no proposal for a 'Circular Railway' in Calcutta under consideration now.

(b) Does not arise.

Feeder Canal Connecting Padma with Hooghly

1005. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the construction of feeder canal, connecting Padma river with the Hooghly river for flushing the silt in the Ganga in Calcutta; and

(b) how many cusecs of water will be available in the lean season through this feeder canal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The execution of the Feeder Canal of the Farakka Barrage Project has reached an advanced stage. Over 96 per cent of the excavation work has been completed so far.

(b) The flow of water in the Feeder Canal will be regulated in a manner which will meet the needs of preventing deterioration of Calcutta Port.

Construction of Railway Line From Koyam Kulam to Ernakulam in Kerala

1006. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received a proposal from Kerala Government for the construction of a rail link from Koyam Kulam to Ernakulam via Alleppy in Kerala; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) The survey conducted in the year 1970 revealed that the project would be unremunerative. The estimated cost for construction of the line as per the survey is about Rs. 10 crores. This area is very well served by roads and inland waterways. The existing Quilon-Ernakulam M.G. line which is under conversion to B.G. is also not far away from the coast. In view of this, and the limited resources available for construction of new lines, it would be difficult to consider this project in the near future.

Availability of Wagons for Coal and Coke in Maharashtra

1007. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has represented to the Central Government that inadequate availability of wagons has affected supply of coal and coke to Industries in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Within the overall availability of coal and coke Railways have given equitable allotments of wagons for movement of the same to different States including Maharashtra.

Construction of Wani-Chanaka Railway Line

1008. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHAN
KAR ADVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether high priority is being given to the construction of Wani-Chanaka railway line in Maharashtra; and

(b) whether manufacture of cement in the area is likely to be effected due to delay in the construction of this line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The construction of Chanaka-Wani line has been sanctioned in April, 1973 and the work is in progress.

(b) No delay is anticipated in the target date for completion of this line.

Ganga-Cauvery Project

1009. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1948, the erstwhile State of Madras had investigated the possibility of diverting the Godavari waters to Cauvery basin and had prepared a project that could be completed in a decade;

(b) whether the water discharge of Godavari is the highest in India and that at present only 10 per cent

of the water is utilised for irrigation and the rest of it flows into the Bay of Bengal; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the above project as a first step in the execution of the proposed Ganga-Cauvery project.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASHAD): (a) No project envisaging diversion of Godavari waters to the Cauvery basin had been received by the Government of India from the erstwhile State of Madras.

(b) The Ganga and the Brahmaputra are bigger than the Godavari in flow. Matters such as the precise availability of supplies in the Godavari river system, current use and the needs of the basin States are under adjudication by the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal.

(c) The National Water Grid is only a concept at present. When investigations are taken up for interregional transfers of waters to immunise some of the chronically drought affected areas, it is proposed to examine the possibilities of the use of surplus waters, if any, of the Godavari also.

Price of cooking Gas

1010. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation has recently proposed to Government to reduce the price of cooking gas;

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken thereon; and

(c) the extent of reduction of price to be effected?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.