

urgent military demands for track. These lines were working at a loss since 1936-37 till their dismantlement, as per records available. Prior to 1936-37 no record is available. As regards Saraigarh-Raghopur-Pratapganj line in Bihar, this was abandoned during 1926-27 due to ravages of the Kosi river and other streams in the area which were constantly shifting their course. Its uneconomic operation was not the consideration for closure of the line.

(c) and (d) This was in pursuance of the new approach enunciated in the Budget Speech in Lok Sabha on the 20th February 1973 for opening new lines up to 60 kms. where the development of the area would be greatly facilitated, without viewing the expenditure thereon too closely in terms of the prospects of immediate returns on investment.

Nitrogen Fertiliser

1159. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided for creation of an additional capacity of two and a half million tonnes of nitrogen fertilisers during the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Approach Document for the Fifth Plan envisages a production target of 39.12 lakh tonnes of fertilizers in terms of nitrogen by 1975-79 and a total capacity buildup of 5.5 million tonnes. To achieve this target, Government have decided in principle to set up five fertilizer projects of standard size in the public sector during the Fifth Plan period. A few plants are in addition likely to be set up in the private sector for which proposals have been received.

Avenues of promotion for observers in Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona

1160. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

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

(a) whether the Observers employed in the Central Water and Power Research Station, Khadakvasala, Poona are dissatisfied and frustrated because of lack of any avenues of promotion; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove their dissatisfaction and frustration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from Observers in the Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona, regarding lack of promotional avenues, as no higher posts exist for them. The Third Pay Commission in their Report have recommended a pay scale of Rs. 260-430, as against the existing scale of Rs. 110-200 for this category of staff. The Commission have also recommended that in cases where there is stagnation and promotional avenues do not exist, selection grade posts should be provided. Further action in the matter will be taken in the light of decision of the Government on this recommendation of the Pay Commission.

Surcharge on Railway Fare

1161. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of the imposition of surcharge on the fare for travelling in the Deccan Queen train, the Railways are losing thousands of rupees every day; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to abolish the surcharge?

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