

Statement	
Name of Railway Zone	Number of casual labourers employed on 31.3. 1973
Central Railway	52,918
Eastern Railway	33,711
Northern Railway	70,592
North Eastern Railway	6,698
Northeast Frontier Railway	5,060
Southern	37,510
South Central	43,690
South Eastern	32,980
Western	31,161
TOTAL 3,14,320	

Casual labourers are engaged on works of seasonal, intermittent and sporadic nature as also on construction projects. Except in projects, all are mostly in unskilled categories. In projects, comparatively small number work in skilled categories also-

2. About two lakhs of casual labourers have less than 6 months service. The rest have put in periods of service varying from 6 months to about 10 years.

3. Casual labourers are remunerated on daily basis according to the rates prevalent in the locality subject to the minimum wage prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act being granted to the casual labourers governed by that Act. Casual Labourers employed on works other than projects, for more than four months are, however, remunerated on regular scales of pay. In all these cases wages are drawn on a monthly basis.

4. Following Government's policy to fill up regular Class IV posts from amongst casual labourers and substitutes to the maximum extent possible, a large number of casual labourers have already been absorbed against regular posts. The process of absorption is a continuous one.

Short Supply of Chemical Fertiliser to Tea Gardens in Assam

*660. SHRI GOLAP BARBORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Assam, he met the representatives of various Associations of Tea Planters and discussed with them the problem of short supply of chemical fertilisers to tea gardens in Assam;

(b) whether the planters' representatives also stated that the tea industry in West Bengal was allotted more fertilisers than their requirements whereas Assam tea industry got inadequate allotment; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The distribution of fertilisers is controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture. For the tea industry, the requirements of fertilisers are assessed by the Tea Board in consultation with the tea planters of Assam and West Bengal.

2. During the period April 1972 -January 1973, the tea industry's demand was 21,000 tonnes of nitrogen comprising 13000 tonnes of nitrogen for Assam tea gardens and 8,000 tonnes for West Bengal tea gardens. The actual supplies during that period were 19,053 tonnes of nitrogen, of which 13,818 tonnes went to the Assam tea gardens and 5,235 tonnes to the West-Bengal tea gardens.

For the period February -July 1973, 4,005 tonnes of nitrogen was supplied to the Assam tea gardens and 3,933 tonnes to the West Bengal tea gardens. For the period August 1973-January 1974, the requirements have been assessed at 13,300 tonnes of nitrogen for the Assam tea gardens and 3,300 tonnes for the West Bengal tea gardens. Supplies to this extent will be made available.

Fertilizer Dealership from the Fertilizer Corporation of India

♦661. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN-YAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state: