

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) There are 13 posts of Chief Clerk grade Rs. 335—125 and one post each of PA to CCS and Office Superintendent (Commercial) in grade Rs. 450—575.

(b) The reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is made in relation to the numbers of vacancies to be filled on a particular occasion and is not related to the total strength of staff. Necessary reservations were made accordingly.

(c) One post of Chief Clerk (Claims), and one post of Chief Clerk (General and Refund) were filled by Scheduled Caste candidates.

#### UNCLEARED PACKAGES AT SHALIMAR YARD

\*23. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of packages have been lying uncleared at the Shalimar Yard of South Eastern Railway for a long period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for the quick clearance of the yard?

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

(b) The main reason is the delay on the part of the consignees in lifting the goods, possibly with a view to create artificial scarcity in the market and thus inflate the prices.

The attendant reasons are late receipt of documents and delay in Banking business on account of 'go slow' and strike in Reserve Bank of India.

(c) Frequent contacts with the Chambers of Commerce, State Government and Trade interests are being maintained. The State Government also invoked the Defence of India Rules to have the consignments of cotton piece goods detained for more than seven days, requisitioned.

Working hours of the Shalimar Goods Sheds have been extended by two hours and the rate of demurrage and wharfage charges at Shalimar has been raised to maximum immediately after the expiry of free time.

It has been decided to increase these rates further with effect from 1-12-1972, not only at Shalimar but at other parts also.

#### FERTILIZER PRODUCTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR PLANTS

\*24. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI S. B. BOBDEY:

SHRI V. R. PARASHAR:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a Press Report about the low utilisation of Capacity in fertilizer production in the public sector plants as compared to the Private Sector Plants; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to increase the production of fertilizers in the Public Sector; and whether any enquiry has been made to find out the reasons for low utilisation in the Public Sector Plants?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) While no Special enquiry has been made, factors inhibiting maximum utilisation of capacity in the Public Sector have been carefully identified and appropriate remedial measures have been taken or are being taken with a view to optimising production and a measure of success has already been achieved. However, labour and other local problems, power cuts, voltage dips etc. continue to inhibit production.

The more important steps taken or being taken to maximise production from the existing units are as follows:—

(i) Repairs and renovations of old sections and carrying out a rationalisation scheme in the Sindri factory;

(ii) Modification of certain sections of the Trombay unit;

(iii) Arrangements for steady supply of power to the units;

(iv) Installation of supplementary naphtha gasification facilities to produce synthesis gas and initiation of steps to maximum coke oven gas supply to the fertilizer plant at Rourkela;

(v) Modifications in various sections of ammonia and urea plants at Neyveli;

(vi) Repairs and renovations in certain sections of the Ahvaye Plant.