

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) In a complaint recently received against certain officials of the Allahabad Division Northern Railway, the name of the Divisional Commercial Superintendent, Allahabad has also been mentioned.

(b) The complaint which mainly contains allegations of malpractices relating to a handling contract on the Allahabad Division, is being looked into.

#### CONVERSION OF RANCHI-LOHARDAGA NARROW GAUGE LINE INTO BROAD GAUGE

872. SHRI B. R. MUNDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert the narrow gauge line between Ranchi and Lohardaga on the South Eastern Railway into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### COAL SUPPLY TO DESU

873. MISS SAROJ PURSHOTTAM KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private agencies supplying coal to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking stopped their supply and that the coal now being supplied by Government agencies is not upto the mark besides being costlier, and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the quality and regular supply of a coal to DESU during the current period of power crisis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL):

(a) and (b) The coal supplied by the private coal suppliers was found in some cases to be below the prescribed specifications. This attracted the penalties laid down in the contract. The suppliers represented about these being very harsh. While this was under consideration of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, the coal suppliers unilaterally resorted to deferring/ cancelling of the coal supplies. The D.E.S.U. therefore, arranged with the National Coal Development Corporation and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., to meet their coal requirements. This has been done as an emergent measure. As a result, coal supplies are now being received regularly and the coal stocks have been built up from about 2 days' requirements to about 15-18 days' requirements (40,000 tonnes). The coal available from the N.C.D.C./B.C.C.L. being of a different grade, the prices are not strictly comparable and the price adjustments offered by these undertakings are also different. Some deviations from specifications have been noticed in their supplies and the matter has been taken up with them.

#### FERTILIZER FACTORY IN PUNJAB

874. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up another fertilizer factory in Punjab:

(b) if so, the details of the proposal: and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation have submitted a proposal for setting up of a fertilizer project at Bhatinda. Clarifications have been sought from the Corporation on matters like acceptability of fuel oil as the feedstock details of financing, etc. These are being awaited.