

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Private oil companies which are having refineries here are supplying us petroleum products including furnace oil also. From where they purchase it and supply it to us is not known to us. They are one bloc of suppliers. The other bloc is the USSR which supplies under rupee payment arrangement. These are the two blocs of suppliers and we are trying to get petroleum products including furnace oil from some other sources.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Have there been any efforts to import furnace oil from other countries and if so, what quantities are being imported or are being proposed to be imported from countries other than the USSR at present?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The bulk of the supplies is from non-USSR sources, in respect of furnace oil.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: What is the percentage?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not got the percentage with me just now.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Co. is faced with a very serious shortage of storage capacity for this furnace oil and other petroleum products, and if so, whether any plan has been undertaken to keep pace with these imports which are being contracted for, in the matter of developing the storage capacity?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is true that we are short of storage facilities. We are only a two-year-old baby now, as against 50-year or 60-year-old establishments of the Standard Vacuums and the Burmah Shells who have got their storage capacities. We are very fastly developing our installations, and we hope that next year, we shall be adequately equipped with all these storage facilities.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know to what extent the present negotiations will be able to cover the gap?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The consumption of furnace oil is mounting at a

very high rate in the country because of many factors such as the growth of industry, the expansion of our plants and also the comparative shortage of coal etc. Therefore, the gap is also increasing. We are trying to reduce the gap by import from all sources and also by increasing the capacity in our own refineries, but there is a limit to increasing the capacity.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Q. No. 178.

An Hon. Member: May I suggest that Q. No. 185 also may be taken along with this?

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Minister agrees, I have no objection.

Gauhati Refinery

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 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri N. R. Laskar:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Shri Y. N. Singha:
 Shri P. K. Ghosh:
 Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of the Gauhati refinery was suspended during the recent floods in Assam;

(b) if so, for how many days it was suspended;

(c) whether any damage was caused to the refinery due to this flood; and

(d) if so, the amount involved therein?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15 days.

(c) No damage to the refinery units or equipment was caused.

(d) Does not arise.