

be pleased to state:

(a) whether some facilities have been provided to the Left Communists in Kerala now under detention for contesting the General Elections; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The facilities afforded to the detenus, who want to contest the elections, are as follows:—

- (i) Between 30-1-1965, the date of notification calling general election, and 6-2-1965, the last date for making nomination, the proposer of each detenu standing for election had been allowed to see him once for obtaining his signature on the nomination form.
- (ii) The election agent of the detenu has been permitted to interview him once a week till the elections are over.
- (iii) The detenus standing for elections have been permitted to hand over the orders of appointment of polling agents and counting agents to the Jail Superintendent concerned who would forward them immediately to the persons concerned by post.

Oil Price Inquiry Committee

*237. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Sudhansu Das:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Narendra Singh
Mahida:

{ Shri R. Barua:
Shri L. N. Bhanja Deo:
Shri R. S. Pandey:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a delay in fixing a new price structure for petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir):

(a) and (b). The recommendations of the Oil Price Enquiry Committee set up in 1960 were put into effect on 1st October, 1961. The price structure thereunder was to remain in force until 31st March, 1965. A Working Group on Oil Prices was set up on the 12th May, 1964 to examine and report upon the manner of determination of oil prices after that date. It was intended that the Working Group should submit its report by 31st December, 1964, but the Group has not yet finished its work. The existing pricing arrangements have accordingly been extended until 30th June, 1965.

The delay in the submission of the report by the Working Group is due to the following reasons:—

- (i) Replies to the original questionnaire issued to the different oil companies were received late and replies are still awaited to some supplementary questions.
- (ii) Examination of the data furnished by the oil companies in respect of costs of refining and marketing by a Special Unit of the Cost Accounts Branch of the Finance Ministry with reference to the original books of account is taking longer than originally anticipated.