

(b) whether compensation has been paid to the inhabitants of the area for lands and other properties acquired?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):

(a) The oustees from the Bilaspur Town will be settled in a new township to be constructed about 2½ miles from the existing town. Sites ad-measuring 330 acres have been acquired and the levelling and dressing up of the site on which the main township will be located is nearing completion. Other amenities like roads, etc. are also being taken up. About 800 house plots have been demarcated and will be made available to the oustees in the near future.

(b) The Land Acquisition Officer has announced awards in respect of lands acquired in the rural areas. The awards for the lands and other properties in the urban area of the existing township have been delayed slightly but it is expected that these will be announced very soon.

Import of Petrol and Petroleum Products

*646. **Shri Abdul Salam:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies authorised to import petrol and petroleum products into India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the importing companies are permitted to sell their products at a price fixed by the Government; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the importing companies appoint agents in each district and sell the imported goods at an exorbitant price?

The Minister of Mines (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Five major companies are importing petroleum products into India, while about sixty-five other companies are importing Lubricants mainly. The imports of petroleum products are governed by the import

policy current at the time and anybody who fulfils the conditions laid down therein is authorised to make imports. Imports of Petrol, Furnace Oil & Paraffin Wax are, however, not allowed as the country is self-sufficient in these products.

(b) No, Sir. For some major Petroleum products, prices are fixed by the oil companies on the basis of a formula agreed to by Government. In other cases, prices are fixed on a competitive basis by the oil companies themselves.

(c) Government are aware that petroleum products are sold through agents/dealers appointed by the oil companies. The selling prices of the products are fixed on the basis mentioned in answer to part (b) of the Question. Government are not aware if imported petroleum products are being sold at exorbitant prices.

Acceptance of Presents by Government Servants

*652. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any order of the Government of India in force requiring Government officers to give a statement showing details of invitees to marriages etc. in their house and also of presents received at such functions;

(b) what is the annual worth of presents accepted by officers as reported in the statements so furnished; and

(c) whether a copy of the order in force, if any, will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 136].