

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know which is the country which is most advanced technically in the matter of transport of oil through pipelines?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are various countries which are dealing with this problem, and Italy is one of them.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the Nunmati-Barauni pipeline at place runs within five miles of the Pakistani border? If so, I want to get an assurance from him....

Mr. Speaker: No assurance can be asked for during the Question Hour. Next question.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Question Nos. 691 and 697 may also be answered along with this.

Mr. Speaker: Questions 689, 691 and 697.

Oil Prices

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*689. { **Shri Kodiyan:**
 Shri Warier:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have suggested a further extension of the *ad hoc* price agreement with the private oil companies;

(b) if so, for what period; and

(c) when the negotiation with the private oil companies for entering into a price agreement is expected to be started?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). The *ad hoc* price agreement entered into by Government with the private oil companies terminated on 30-9-1961. Government had appointed on 2-8-1960 the Oil Price Enquiry Committee (Damle Committee) to examine the principles and elements according to which selling prices of petroleum products in the country should be deter-

mined. The Committee submitted its Report to Government on 19-7-1961 and the recommendations thereof were implemented with effect from 1-10-1961 and additional non-recoverable duties were imposed to mop up the reductions in prices proposed by Damle Committee; therefore, the question of entering into negotiations with the private oil companies regarding price agreement does not arise.

Prices of Petrol and Kerosene Oil

*691. **Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Burmah Oil Company has increased the prices of Petrol and Kerosene; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) As a result of conversion of the duty rates for the various petroleum products to the metric system with effect from 1-10-1960, certain marginal adjustments in the quantum of such rates became necessary. The determination of the exact quantum in respect of each product was under discussion between the oil companies and the various Government Departments concerned. On conclusion of such discussions, all the oil companies [Including Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Ltd.] were authorized to carry out adjustments thereof in the ceiling selling prices of the products, with effect from 1-10-1961, resulting in very marginal increases only in the prices of petroleum products.

Damle Committee's Price Formula

*697. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the position regarding the refusal of foreign oil companies to accept Damle Committee's price formula;