

Building of Off-Shore Terminal on Gujarat Coast with Foreign Assistance

9517. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to build an off-shore terminal on Gujarat coast with foreign assistance ; and

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines of the proposal ?

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

(a) and (b). Indian Oil Corporation propose to build an off-shore terminal in the Gulf of Kutch to receive imported crude oil required for the Mathura Refinery and the expanded Koyali Refinery. The off-shore terminal would consist of a single point mooring system with submarine pipeline to connect the off-shore terminal to the shore tanks. As this type of work has not been done in the country so far, assistance from a suitable foreign consultant will be taken. The estimated cost of this facility is Rs. 620 lakhs with a foreign exchange component of about Rs. 400 lakhs.

Increasing Production of Industrial Alcohol

9520. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of industrial alcohol and this vital raw material is being imported from U. S. A. to the tune of Rs. 5 crores every year ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to increase the production of this alcohol to save the valuable foreign exchange and meet the ever-increasing demand for it ?

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

(a) In the alcohol year 1971-72 and the current year 1972-73 a shortage of alcohol has been experienced. To meet the deficit in the current year, Government has authorised the import of 16,500 tonnes of alcohol valued at Rs. 1.72 crores. This import is being made from U. S. A.

(b) Basically the indigenous production of alcohol is linked to the size of the sugarcane crop as quantities of sugar and molasses depend on it. However to conserve the available supply of molasses, Government has taken steps to improve the storage facilities. Under the statutory order fixing the price of molasses and alcohol, a certain fraction is required to be separately funded for construction of standard storage facilities in accordance with the procedure laid down by Government. This measure is expected to increase the availability of molasses for distillation.

To ensure the optimum utilisation of the available quantity of alcohol, Government has issued guidelines on the priorities to be followed for utilisation of alcohol to all State Governments.

Import of Fertilizer through F. C. L

9521. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the reasons for not allowing public sector units like Fertilizer Corporation not to allow direct imports when a large part of things like imported fertilizer is marketed through their distribution network ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : Except for small quantities of fertilizers allotted for the seeding programmes etc., of fertilizer manufacturers, the distribution of imported fertilizers is effected by the Central Fertilizer Pool through State Govts/Union Territories and Commodity Boards and not through public sector enterprises like the Fertilizer Corporation of India. In view, of this, the Central Fertilizer Pool of the Ministry of Agriculture is the appropriate agency to coordinate all actions in regard to the procurement, distribution, etc. of imported fertilizers.

Expansion and Repair of Stations in Kerala

9522. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have any scheme to expand and repair some of the Railway stations in the State of Kerala ;