

are performing very satisfactorily. performance of Systems is kept in view while placing orders.

(f) Yes, Sir.

#### Theft of Bitumen from Refineries

3235. PROF RAMKRISHNA MORE :  
SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH :  
DR. A.K. PATEL :  
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH  
PATIL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that about 30 per cent of the bitumen sent from the refineries to the godowns is stolen and that Government are incurring loss to the tune of Rs. 14 crores annually from the Mathura Refinery alone ;

(b) if so, the estimated annual loss in terms of money on account of theft of bitumen from the various refineries in the country during the last three years (year-wise) ;

(c) whether Government have conducted any inquiry into the nodus operandi of the persons involved in the theft of bitumen from the refineries ;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter ; and

(e) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) No thefts of bitumen have been reported from the Refineries of the oil companies. However, a section of the Press and Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association's have reported thefts of Bitumen during transport and from premises of consumers. There has been no loss to Mathura refinery due to these thefts.

(c), (d) and (e) Since the Bitumen produced by the refineries is mainly used by Departments and Organisations of State

Governments/Union Territories, this Ministry has suggested among other things, that the following steps be taken by the State Government/U.Ts to improve the situation :

- (i) Government Departments/ Quasi Government bodies and public sector enterprises should purchase their requirements of bitumen only from the oil companies, viz., Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation. Contractors working for the aforesaid category of organisations should be supplied the required quantities of bitumen by PWD or other appropriate department and procurement by the contractors on their own should not be one of the conditions of the contract.
- (ii) The relevant Enforcement Wings and vigilance Cells should be activated to check pilferage from Government storage etc.
- (iii) The Director of Industries should be advised to register units which require bitumen as raw material only after the applicants give satisfactory evidence that an authoritative purchase arrangement for bitumen has been made from one or the other of the oil companies.
- (iv) All industrial units requiring bitumen (80/100 or 60/70 or 30/40) as raw material for production of Blown Bitumen grades, paints, inks, briquettes, etc., should be advised by the Directorate of Industries to purchase their bitumen requirements directly from the oil companies.
- (v) The Directorate of Industries and the Sales Tax Department should arrange for joint scrutiny of the records of the manufacturing units in order to ascertain whether bitumen has been obtained by the units from the oil companies or from unauthorised sources.