

supplies where supplies are started to be slow due to non-availability of sufficient number of wagons.

Concessions to Maruti Udyog Ltd. to Import Components

3391. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the concessions given to Maruti Udyog Ltd. in customs duty while importing various components, because the fuel efficiency of the Maruti car is upto 1,000 c.c. ;

(b) the total amount of concession thus given to Maruti Udyog Ltd. for the years 1984-85 and 1985-86; and

(c) whether the Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay had requested for similar concessions and if so, the reasons for not giving same concessions to Premier Automobiles Ltd. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K K. TEWARY) :

(a) No concession have been made to Maruti Udyog. Maruti pays the same customs duty as for other fuel efficient cars of higher engine capacity.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Certain concessions on customs and excised duty are allowed for the manufacture of fuel efficient passenger cars provided the vehicle passes the fuel efficiency criteria and is tested by a testing agency for the purpose. The vehicle model 118-NE manufactured by PAL has been declared fuel efficient and the manufacturers are availing concessions in levies.

Supply of Natural Gas by Pipes in Certain Districts of Assam

3392. PROF. PARAG CHALIHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plans to supply natural gas by laying pipes for domestic use in the oil producing areas of Sibsagar, Jorhat and Dibrugarh districts ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) :

(a) and (b). Oil & Natural Gas Commission has committed to supply five thousand cubic metres of gas per day to Assam Gas Company who, in turn, will distribute this to the domestic consumers in Sibsagar town.

(c) Does not arise.

Patenting Procedure

3393. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the average time taken by the Patent Office for granting the patent ;

(b) the longest period for which a patent application is pending as on October 31, 1986 ; and

(c) The steps proposed by Government to accelerate the pace and how soon it is expected to achieve this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) On an average 3 years and 10 months.

(b) Longest period is 13 years and six months.

(c) The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks has been asked to expedite disposal of applications.