

(e) The country is not likely to achieve self-sufficiency in LPG in the foreseeable future.

Transportation of Pan Leaves from Berhampur

507. SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of pan leaves are transported by Railways to Northern India from Berhampur, (Ganjam);

(b) whether there is a demand for providing direct goods wagon from Berhampur to Northern India to avoid the delay in loading and unloading at Howrah; and

(c) when does the Railways propose to provide this facility from Berhampur?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Daily average demand from Berhampur is 0.5 tonnes. This quantum of traffic does not justify clearance in a full wagon load. Presently, the traffic is being cleared in the SLR of passenger and Mail/Express trains passing through Berhampur.

[Translation]

Grounding of A-320 Aircraft

508. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government entered into an agreement with another company for purchase of A-320 aircraft during the period the flights of the already purchased A-320 aircrafts were suspended; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Impact of Gulf War on Common Man

509. SHRI NANDU THAPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the adverse effect of oil and petrochemicals in the country because of Gulf War; and

(b) the extent of the inflationary effect on common man because of the shortage and high cost of petroleum product?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No impact has been felt so far on availability of petroleum products in the country on account of Gulf War.

(b) A Gulf surcharge of 25% was imposed on domestic prices of petroleum products (except domestic LPG) from mid-October-1990. The direct and indirect impact of this sur-charge on the wholesale price index has been estimated to be around 1.5%.

Price of Petroleum Products

510. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the difference in the price of petroleum products obtained from different countries in the past two years;