

- i) Fertilizer has been declared as an essential commodity under provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- ii) Fertilizer Control Order was enacted in the year 1957 which has been updated and a revised order called Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 has been issued. This Order empowers Government of India and State Governments to regulate fertilizer supply, distribution, price and quality;
- iii) State Governments have been given adequate powers to implement Fertilizer Control Order, 1985;
- iv) State Governments have established fertilizer control laboratories and appointed enforcement agencies to check the quality of fertilizers.

#### Grant of Visa

3022. DR. A.K. PATEL:  
SHRI SHANKERSINGH  
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka regarding requests for visa on the basis of sponsorship certificate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also issued any instructions to the State Governments/Union Territory administrations in regard to grant of extension of stay to Bangladesh nationals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have issued instructions to our Mission in Dhaka to exercise greater scrutiny in dealing with the request for visa on the basis of sponsorship certificate. They have also been advised to strictly observe the prescribed procedure while granting visas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Instructions have been issued to the State Governments Union territory administrations to grant extension of stay of Bangladesh nationals only for a maximum period of one month at a time limit to a total period of three months over and above the period of visa originally granted by the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh, for certain specific reasons, like illness etc., instead of upto one year as at present.

#### Prices of Naphtha

3023. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the price of Naphtha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Naphtha is not allowed to be imported;

(d) whether the increase in the price has created a set-back to some public sector units like fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore in Kerala; and