

[English]

Rise in Price of Petrol

280. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of petrol was Rs. 1.69 per litre in 1973 and the same has rocketed to Rs. 7.34 per litre in 1985;

(b) if so, how many times there has been price hike during the said period; and the factors responsible for steady rise in the price of these items;

(c) the quantity of petrol imported during the last three years, stating the names of the countries and the amount involved; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to exercise economy in the consumption of petrol by the Ministries and their Undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The retail price of petrol at Bombay was Rs. 1.66 per litre in August, 1973. The current price at Bombay is Rs. 7.34 per litre.

(b) The price of Motor Spirit was revised sixteen times during this period. The increases in price have been on account of several reasons, *viz.* increase in the price of crude oil (indigenous and imported), improvement in the quality of petrol, higher costs of exploration, refining and marketing of petroleum products, etc.

(c) There were no imports of petrol during the last three years.

(d) The Ministry of Finance have issued instructions to the Ministries and Departments to keep the expenses on petrol for the staff cars at the minimum. The Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and other public sector undertakings had also been advised to effect savings in the consumption of petrol in their staff cars.

T. V. Transmission from Towers Erected for the purpose of Telecommunication

281. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the micro-wave towers erected for the purpose of telecommunication can be used for television transmission;

(b) whether in advanced countries networks of telecommunication and television are working from one tower; and

(c) the reasons why the Communications Ministry in India does not extend the same facility for T. V. transmission from its micro-wave towers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Use of microwave towers for TV transmission is feasible only in some locations, with the use of light weight dipole antennae for TV.

(b) Yes, there are instances of use of common tower in developed countries.

(c) The feasibility of TV transmission from microwave towers has been studied and it is seen that with limited availability of infrastructure and facilities at microwave stations, several administrative, operational and technical restrictions will arise making the proposition complex and impracticable.

Opening of New Telephone Exchanges and Post Offices in Valsad, Baroda and Surat Districts in Gujarat

282. SHRI U. H. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some new telephone exchanges and post offices have been opened during 1-1-1983 to 30-9-85 in the Valsad, Baroda and Surat districts in Gujarat States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount, spent on the same;

(c) the actual plans, projects and estimates of the same; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges and post offices likely to be opened in these districts during 1985 and 1986 ?