

Andheri West Post Office due to growth of new colonies to improve the service larger number of beats were required, and this could be found by re-organising the delivery system by reducing one delivery. In the revised system the delivery is quite regular and punctual.

(c) In the initial stage when the number of beats were changed in both these offices due to the revised system of sorting there were difficulties and sorting could not be completed. System in both cases had come to normal after a week. There is no accumulation of any undelivered registered letters in these offices now.

Balance between Hydel and Thermal Power Generation

2264. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the balance between hydel and thermal power generation has been shifting in the last few years towards thermal power generation and will continue to do so during the Seventh Plan;

(b) whether this is creating problems in meeting peak loads; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to correct this balance ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. While it is desirable to accelerate development of hydro potential so that peak demand is met by hydro plants, those plants have a long gestation period and environmental considerations. A number of hydro projects have been identified for external assistance with a view to increasing the share of hydro in the total capacity.

Import of Oil from Iran and Iraq at Higher than the Market Price

2265. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether crude is being imported from Iran and Iraq at a price much higher than the prevailing market price for petroleum;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered in these transactions during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for buying Iran-Iraqi crude at much higher prices; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) be in negative, the price at which crude is being purchased from these two countries and the prevailing crude price in the market, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (d). No crude oil is currently being imported from Iran and Iraq at higher prices than the prevailing market prices. The crudes of these countries required by us are also not actively traded in the International market in quantities needed by us from time to time. It is, therefore, not possible to precisely compute the notional value of loss, if any, in transactions during earlier years under contracts, whose long term advantages of security of supply far outweighed short-term price disadvantage, if any.

Accountability of officials for performance of Public Sector Units

2266. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government are taking for holding officials and others at a level higher than that of chief executives of public sector units in his Ministry, accountable for performance of units under his Ministry;

(b) whether such accountability has been applied uniformly at all levels including the Board of Directors, the chief executives of the units and higher officials in the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details of punishment meted out to officials at all levels including officials higher than that of the chief executive of a unit in the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNA-

CHALAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Drug Production and Requirement of Medicines

2267. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the current worth of drug production in the country; and

(b) the estimate of national requirements of medicines and its worth by the end of 20th Century when the country is pledged to achieve the goal of "health for all by 2000 A.D." ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) During the year 1984-85 production of bulk drugs and formulations is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 377 crores and Rs. 1827 crores at constant prices.

(b) Government has not estimated demand of drugs by the year 2000 A.D. However Working Group on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals for the 7th Five Year Plan have estimated total requirement of bulk drugs and formulation by 1989-90 as Rs. 1033.4 crores and Rs. 3775 crores respectively.

Availability of Kerosene Oil

2268. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government have been drawn to the news item captioned, "Atroli mein police ne kya nahin kiya" appearing in the Jan-satta of 9th February, 1986;

(b) whether kerosene oil is in short supply in most of the areas in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure the availability of kerosene oil in the country with ease and without much difficulty in accurate weight and fixed price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, sporadic shortages in some areas cannot be ruled out.

(c) Kerosene requirements of various States/Union Territories are assessed by allowing a 5% growth over the allocations made in the corresponding period of the previous year, on a four-month-block basis and allocations are made accordingly. However, to meet the increased demand, allocation of kerosene for the Winter Block comprising the months of November, 1985 to February, 1986 and the Summer Block comprising the months of March-June, 1986 have been made after allowing a growth rate of 7½% and 7% respectively.

While the overall allocation of kerosene is made by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, its further distribution is done by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration in each States/Union Territory. To ensure availability of kerosene in the country with ease and without much difficulty in accurate weight and at fixed prices, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised time and again to streamline the distribution system of kerosene and take stern action against those indulging in Black-marketing/hoarding etc. by invoking also, if necessary, the provisions of the relevant laws.

Assistance to Assam for Reopening Closed Industrial Units

2269. SHRI SUDARSAN DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether the Union Government have any proposal to render assistance to the Government of Assam for reopening some closed industrial units in Assam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : The Union Government would render all possible assistance to the Government of Assam in their efforts to reopen some of the closed industrial units.