

(xxii) A number of more efficient coal utilisation technologies such as MHD power generation, coal gasification, coal hydrogenation etc. are being tried out within the country and abroad. The Government should provide all encouragement and financial support to such efforts. The private sector should be given facilities for R and D on par with public sector research organisations.

Quality and contents of match boxes

2659. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the safety matches produced in the small scale sector are of very poor quality and contain much less number of splints than 'fifty' as required; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to safeguard the interests of the consumers and bring to book the guilty manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) No specific complaints have been received regarding the poor quality of safety matches produced in the small scale sector. However, some general complaints have been received about the shortage in the number of splints as required in the safety matches produced in the country.

(b) Safety matches as produced and marketed in the country are a prepacked commodity within the meaning of the standards of Weight and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules 1977. Complaints whenever received are brought to the notice of concerned state authorities responsible for enforcing the said Rules, for taking suitable action.

Reduction in price of Petroleum products in view of fall in price in international market

2660. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of petrol is falling in the international market; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to proportionately reduce the price of petrol, diesel etc., in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Raising of funds by O. N. G. C. through scheme of Instalment Sale Financing

2661. SHRI K. V. SHANKARAGOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has decided to raise 60 million dollars this year through a novel scheme of Instalment Sale Financing;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether a separate interest Swap Agreement was entered into between ONGC and US Bank;

(d) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(e) whether ONGC is also considering to tap the US dollar market in 1986;

(f) whether a proposal for issue of Bull Dog Bonds in the British capital market has also been considered; and

(g) if so, the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). ONGC has already raised US \$ 60