

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e). With a view to promoting projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy on a wider scale, it is proposed to set up a Renewable Energy Development Agency. A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been made for this project during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The details and modalities of the Agency are under examination of the Government.

Increase in price of alcohol

651. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity of alcohol imported annually;
- (b) what is its landed cost and its distribution cost;
- (c) the cost of indigenous alcohol ;
- (d) whether there is a demand to increase its prices;

(e) if so, the number of times the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has recommended increase in alcohol prices; and

(f) the reaction of Government in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The duty free import of alcohol (denatured) has been permitted from February, 1985 onward to actual users (industrial) who arrange its imports. The import of about 90 thousand kilo litres has so far been authorised. According to import applications, given by the actual users (industrial), the C.I.F. prices of imported alcohol range between \$ 240 to \$ 265 per kilo litre in bulk and \$410 to \$550 per kilo litre in drums. The information of quantities actually imported and actual imported price is not readily available.

As per Ethyl Alcohol (Price Control) Order, 1971, the indigenous base price of alcohol is as follows :—

Base Price

(i) Absolute alcohol conforming to ISI Standard No. 321-1952, naked, for equivalent volume at 100 per cent v/v strength.	Rupees nine hundred sixty and paise seventy per kilo litre.
(ii) Rectified Spirit conforming to ISI Standard No. 323-1959 naked, for equivalent volume at 100 per cent v/v strength.	Rupees eight hundred seventy three and paise thirty seven per kilo litre.
(iii) Rectified Spirit conforming to ISI Standard No. 323-1959, naked, for equivalent volume at 94.68 per cent v/v strength.	Rupees eight hundred twenty six and paise ninety per kilo litre.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices submitted a report in August, 1983, recommending increase in the price of alcohol.

(f) The question of increase in the price of alcohol is linked with formulation of new policy of molasses and alcohol which has not yet been finalised.