

Hike in Prices of Slack Wax by Indian Oil Corporation

66. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether small scale units manufacturing paraffin wax are facing closure due to recent hike in prices of Slack Wax produced by Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, whether All India Wax Producers Association has made any representation to Government in this regard; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTTI) : (a) to (c) After considering the representations made by the users of the slack wax, Indian Oil Corporation have reduced the selling price of slack wax from Rs. 4800/MT to Rs. 4200/MT ex-Barauni and from Rs. 3970/per MT to Rs. 3735/MT ex-Haldia with effect from 1.2.1987.

Establishment of Sugar Factories in Cooperative Sector

67. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the co-operative sector will be able to establish a sugar factory with an initial capacity of 2500 tonnes cane crushing per day (TCD), on the basis of the new sugar licensing policy announced by Government recently, instead of 1250 TCD, which has so far been the policy of Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to assist the new co-operative sugar factory with an initial capacity of 2500 TCD ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As techno-economic feasibility of a project is considered before grant of a licence, the question of assisting new co-operative sugar factories separately does not arise.

Gasification of Coal

68. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal gas will be a cheaper source of energy as compared to nuclear power;

(b) whether any field underground coal gasification tests at deep levels have been carried out or are proposed to be carried out to make an economic evaluation as also production on a large scale for commercial purposes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) As gasification of coal for power generation is still in an experimental stage in the country, no comparison has yet been made on the relative economics of such power generation and nuclear power.

(b) and (c) A Research and Development Project on in-situ underground coal gasification has been undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Mehsana in Gujarat where coal deposits exist at depths ranging between 1000 to 1700 metres. The production testing of all the 14 zones has been completed at UCG-1 well. Detailed chemical and physical studies on coal samples of the well have been completed.

Proposal to Stop Subsidy to Public Sector Units

69. SHRI H.M. PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :