

Aid India Consortium meeting which usually takes place in June each year.

**Supply of HBJ pipeline gas to Aonla fertilizers plant**

1255. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. plant at Aonla (U.P.) has stopped due to non-availability of HBJ pipeline gas;

(b) how long the Aonla plant which is already completed would remain idle; and

(c) whether any other fertilizer plants which were to be supplied gas by HBJ lying idle ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) and (b) GAIL's commitment is for supply of gas as feedstock only. The IFFCO fertilizer plant at Aonla is expected to draw gas as feedstock from March 1988. GAIL's schedule for supply of gas to this fertilizer plant matches with this schedule.

(c) No, Sir.

**Demand and supply of kerosene**

1256. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual production and demand of kerosene in the country;

(b) the quantity of kerosene oil imported annually to meet the demand;

(c) whether Government are aware that State-wise quota fixed per month is not being supplied to the States and as a result the kerosene oil is being sold in black market at very high prices; if so, the action taken in the matter;

(d) the State-wise demand and supply of kerosene oil during the period April-December, 1987, month-wise;

(e) the main reasons for short supply, if any; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government to meet the demand of each state fully to eliminate the chances of any malpractice ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) The indigenous production and demand of kerosene in the country during the current year (1987-88) are estimated at 4.95 million tonnes and 7.30 million tonnes respectively.

(b) A quantity of 2.59 million tonnes of kerosene has been planned for import during the current year (1987-88) to meet the demand.

(c) to (f) Kerosene requirements of States and Union Territories are assessed by allowing a suitable growth over the allocations made in the corresponding period of the previous year, and allocations are made accordingly. Since October, 1985, allocations are being made and 1/4 2% growth rate for the Winter Block (Nov. to Feb.) and at 7% growth rate both for Summer Block (March to June) and Monsoon Block (July to October). Besides the regular allocations, additional adhoc releases are made to meet specific situations like flood, drought shortage of LPG, etc.

A Statement showing the kerosene allocations and releases made to States and Union Territories during the period April to December 1987, in accordance with the above policy is given below. It will be seen that release on the whole have by and large been in line with the allocations.

While the allocations made are considered adequate to meet the genuine demand, sporadic reports about shortage of kerosene and sale of the product in the black market are received. However, since distribution of the allocated quantity of kerosene within the States is done and controlled by the respective State Governments, they have been advised to streamline the distribution system to ensure its equitable distribution to different areas in the States and also to take stern action against those indulging in malpractices under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.