

(a) The value and quantity of crude oil contracted for purchase and actually imported on term contract during 1986-87 are mentioned below :

Quantity : In million tonnes

Value : Rs. /Crores

Contracted		Actual	
Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
9.9	—	9.9*	1267.13**

The quantity and value of spot market purchases during the year 1986-87 are about 5.9 million tonnes and Rs. 760** crores respectively.

(b) The value and quantity of crude oil imported from Iraq and Libya are indicated below :

Quantity : Million tonnes

Value : Rs. / Crores

	1985-86		1986-87		1987-88 (Provisional)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Iraq	1.9	475	2.6	362	2.1	365
Libya	—	—	—Nil—	—	—	—

The quantity and value of Sulphur imported from Iraq and Libya are given below :

Quantity : In tonnes

Value : Rs. /Crores

	1985-86		1986-87		1987 88	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Iraq	—	—	15000	2.34	15000	1.87
Libya	—	—	—Nil—	—	—	—

(c) Term contracts are resorted to for long term security of supplies and also for obtaining crude oils generally not available in spot market.

(d) and (e). No specific problems are being faced in the shipment of oil in the Gulf due to Iran Iraq war.

(f) Most of the term contracts have trade linkages. On spot market purchases, other things being equal, preference is given to parties making proposals for counter trade.

Includes a product swap of 0.3 million tonnes.

** Provisional estimates.

** Provisional estimates.

Industrial growth of Maharashtra

10415. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a setback in the sphere of industrial growth in Maharashtra due to the closure of big mills particularly the textiles and also the power-looms during the last three years;

(b) if so, the extent of this decline as compared to All India average;

(c) whether there has been a growth in the sphere of small scale industries;

(d) if so; the extent thereof during the last three years;

(e) whether on a balance the industrial labour has been benefited and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the losses suffered by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). CSO does not monitor statewide industrial growth. Table below gives data for industrial approvals for Maharashtra State for the period 1984 to 1987 :

Year	LOI	Delicensed Registrations with SIA	Total
1984	194	—	194
1985	211	151	362
1986	173	277	450
1987	137	217	354

This shows satisfactory trend in the industrial growth of the State.

In so far as the growth in the Small Scale Sector of Maharashtra is concerned, the number of SIDO units went up from 41040 in 1985 to 49927 in 1987 registering an average annual growth of over 10 per cent during this period.

(e) and (f). The information is not maintained by the Ministry of Industry.

Faults in Biogas Plants

10416. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the faults in biogas plants are design defects or component defects; and

(b) if so, whether a better designed plant will be evolved to make it work trouble free ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The designs of biogas plants being promoted under the National Project for Biogas Development are field worthy and sound. Faults in biogas plants could arise due to improper construction and operational techniques.

(b) Research projects are in progress as a part of continuing activity to develop better and cheaper designs of biogas plants as well as appliances.

Natural gas as a Petrol substitute

10417. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have plans to use natural gas available at low pressure as a petrol substitute in internal combustion engines;

(b) if so, whether any experiments have been done in this regard; and

(c) if so, the current status of the projects ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM). (a) to (c). ONGC have conducted trials for use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as an automotive fuel to replace diesel/petrol at their operational centres in Bombay, Rajahmundry (AP). Gujarat and Tripura. This is a pilot study to examine the suitability and economic viability of this alternative fuel in Indian conditions.

Price decontrol of tranquillisers, hypnotics and sedatives

10418. SHRI RAM DHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether tranquillisers, hypnotics and sedatives which were categorised as non-essential and kept outside price control under the Drug Policy 1978 and the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 have been brought under price control under the Drugs (prices Control) Order, 1987; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY. (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) Some tranquillisers, hypnotics and sedatives have been brought under price control under DPCO, 1987, which were decontrolled under DPCO, 1979.