

(घ) पी० सी० ए० जी० ने डीजल संरक्षण की संभावना और उसके लिये अपेक्षित उपायों के बारे में मध्य रेलवे के इटारसी लोको-शेड में अध्ययन कार्य पूरा कर लिया है। भारतीय रेलों के अन्य लोको शेडों में भी वैसे ही अध्ययन करने की योजना है।

(ङ) गुजरात राज्य में, जो हल्के डीजल तेल का एक प्रमुख उपभोक्ता है, लिफ्ट सिंचाई पम्पों में इस उत्पाद की उपयोगिता के बारे में एक अध्ययन किया गया है। हल्के डीजल तेल का कुशलतापूर्वक उपयोग करने के लिये अपनाए जाने वाले तरीकों के सम्बन्ध में किसानों को शिक्षित करने हेतु एक अभियान चलाया जायागा।

III. तकनीकी सूचना सेवा

(क) गाड़ियों के रख रखाव और गाड़ी चलाने की बेहतर आदतों के जरिये डीजल की खपत में कफायत पर दो वृत्तचित्र तैयार करने का प्रस्ताव है।

(ख) उद्योग तथा राज्य परिवहन उपक्रमों के लगभग 1000 इंजीनियरों को मासिक तकनीकी सूचना सेवा बुलेटिन भेजी जाती रहेगी। इस बुलेटिन में ईंधन में बचत के तरीकों और उपायों के बारे में व्यापक सूचना होती है।

(ग) सभी पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के बारे में मितव्ययी उपायों से सम्बन्धित सूचना का व्यापक प्रसार करने के लिये पी० सी० ए० जी० द्वारा दृश्यश्रव्य प्रसार महानिदेशालय के (डी० ए० बी० पी०) के सहयोग से पुस्तिकायें और इश्टहार प्रकाशित करने का एक कार्यक्रम तैयार किया जा रहा है जिससे सभी स्तरों पर चेतना पैदा की जा सके।

Slashing of prices of Caprolactum by Gujarat State Fertilizers Co.

*934 SHRI PRASANNABHAI MEHETA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat State Fertilizers Company has slashed the prices of caprolactum to get rid of its accumulated stocks;

(b) if so, whether the company has also represented to Government to review the policy of allowing caprolactum under O.G.L.;

(c) if so, whether the company was also seeking an increase in the retention price of its urea; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in regard to their request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The representation of the Gujarat State Fertilizers Company for a review of the import policy has already been looked into. It has been decided, under the new import policy for 1978-79, to analyse the import of caprolactum through the State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India who will obtain clearance from the Government before making any imports.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The representation of the company has been referred to the Fertilizers Industry Coordination Committee for examination.

Memorandum from Mercantile Employees Union

*935. SHRI MUKANDA MONDAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Mercantile Employees Union submitted a memorandum on 15th April, 1977 to him with the request to protect the

interest of the employees as well as the financial interest of the Government;

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(c) what action if any, has been taken on the said representation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) to (c). The Department of Company Affairs received a letter dated 7th April, 1977 from the Federation of Mercantile Employees Union relating to the affairs of M/s. Armstrong Smith Limited, which is a company registered in Bombay with Branches at Delhi and Calcutta. The Memorandum complained that there has been retrenchment of employees in the Calcutta Branch and the total number of employees was brought down from 80 in 1973 to 22 in 1976. There has also been some retrenchment in the staff in Bombay and Delhi offices also. It was also mentioned that the Calcutta branch of the company was not able to execute orders for want of required finances and that the Government directors have miserably failed to protect the interests of the workers as well as the interest of the company.

M/s. Armstrong Smith Limited is a subsidiary of M/s. Belapur Sugar and Allied Industries Limited. Two Government directors were appointed in M/s. Belapur Sugar and Allied Industries Limited for a period of two years with effect from 28th March, 1973. After the expiry of the said period their appointments were not extended by Government. However, these two Government directors got themselves appointed as Directors of M/s. Armstrong Smith Limited by virtue of its being a subsidiary of M/s. Belapur Sugar and Allied Industries Limited.

The complaints were referred to the company. The company has explained that the Calcutta Unit was not functioning on a remunerative basis and

hence it has been decided to close it down. Further the financial position of the company is also not very sound to enable it to provide additional finances for maintaining the manufacturing unit of the Calcutta Branch.

In view of the position explained by the company it is not possible for Government to interfere in the internal working of the company.

High price and non-availability of Kerosene

*936. SHRI G. S. REDDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints of non-availability of kerosene or of high prices being charged after the Union Budget raised the excise duty and kerosene prices went up; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to make available kerosene at controlled rates particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No complaints have been received by the oil companies or the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Fertilizers of non-availability of kerosene or of high prices being charged for kerosene since the time excise duty rates were raised under the Union Budget for 1978-79.

(b) The following steps have been taken to ensure adequate availability of kerosene:

(i) Adequate import of kerosene has been organised to maintain proper inventory of the product in the country.

(ii) State Coordinators from amongst the oil companies have been appointed to ensure uninterrupted availability of petroleum