

that this would made their production uneconomical and will badly hit their profitability; and

(c) have Government given an assurance to the Industry that formulations in category III and IV will enable them to maintain their profitability while reducing the prices of essential drug;

(d) how would this help units which are predominantly producing formulations in Category I & II only; and

(e) will Government allow such units, as jstied in (d) above, to diversify their formulations activity to category III and IV drugs as long as they are within the ratio of 1:5 or 1:10 as the case may be.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The new Pricing Policy contained in the Statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 29th March, 1978 envisages a mark up (including the distribution costs, outward freight, promotional expenses, manufacturers' margin and trade commission) of 40 per cent and 55 per cent respectively on Category I and II formulations.

(b) Yes, Sir. Representations were received from the drug industry on this point.

(c) to (e). It has been clarified to the Industry that in order to make their overall operations economically viable, with lower mark ups in Category I and Category II, Government would consider their diversification into the formulations falling in Category III and Category IV. Such a diversification would be considered keeping in view the provisions of paragraph 14, 17, 20, 22, 25 of the Statement referred to in (a) above.

Import of Crude Oil

4833. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of crude oil being imported and what is the quantity available in our country;

(b) within how many years we can be self-sufficient; and

(c) after becoming self-sufficient whether there is any possibility of reducing the prices of petrol, kerosene, diesel etc.?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) :
(a) A quantity of 15 million tonnes of crude oil is expected to be imported during 1978-79. Indigenous crude oil availability during this period is expected to aggregate to 12.14 million tonnes.

(b) While all attempts are being made to intensify our exploration activities, and while plans are being made for the exploitation of our established reserves, keeping in view the need to conserve this non-renewable source of energy, it is difficult to hold out any promise of self-sufficiency in crude oil. Our exploration policy will be pursued vigorously with a view to making an inventory of our hydrocarbon resources.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

पेट्रोल का उत्पादन बढ़ाया जाना

4834. श्रीधरी राम गोपाल सिंह : क्या पेट्रोलियम, रासायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत वर्ष के पेट्रोल के उत्पादन की तुलना में इस वर्ष हमके उत्पादन में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है और धारावाही वर्ष में इसमें कितनी वृद्धि होने की संभावना है;

(ख) क्या पेट्रोल के उत्पादन में वृद्धि को देखते हुए उपभोक्ताओं को राहत देने के लिए हमका मूल्य कम करने का विचार है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पेट्रोलियम तथा रासायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री हेमवती लखन बहुगुणा) : (क) वर्ष 1978 के प्रथम छः महीनों के दौरान पेट्रोल के उत्पादन में (मोटर स्पिरिट) वर्ष 1977 की तुलना में 691,000 मी० टन उत्पादन की तुलना में 768,000 मी० टन वृद्धि हुई। अगले वर्ष मोटर स्पिरिट के उत्पादन में वृद्धि मांग में वृद्धि पर निर्भर करेगी जिसका इस समय 5 प्रतिशत अनुमान लगाया गया है।

(ख) और (ग). धारावाही वर्ष के तेल के ऊँचे मूल्यों के कारण पेट्रोल के मूल्य को कम करना संभव नहीं होगा।

कोरोमंडल एक्सप्रेस का गोवाधरी के जिलों तक बढ़ाया जाना

4835. श्री कसुब कुण्जभूति : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोरोमंडल एक्सप्रेस की सुविधाओं का, जो क्षेत्र में एकमात्र एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी है, आन्ध्र प्रदेश में गोवाधरी के जिलों तक विस्तार किया जा सकता है; और