

(c) and (d). Government have seen Press Reports regarding the views expressed from time to time by the Chief Election Commissioner on electoral reforms. Such of the suggestions for electoral reforms as have been received from the Chief Election Commissioner for the consideration of Government are under examination along with the recommendations/suggestions contained in the aforesaid reports/documents as part of the comprehensive proposals for electoral reforms currently under Government's study.

Utilization of Installed Capacity of IISCO.

22. SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the Indian Iron and Steel Company being able to utilize only 65 per cent of the plant's installed capacity of 1 million tonnes of ingot steel; and

(b) the action taken on the recommendations made by the team of industrial engineers picked from four Steel Plants to make a study of manpower of Burnpur Works and also the system of incentives required to be adopted for reaching the level of full utilisation of installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) The main reasons for low capacity utilisation in IISCO are: outmoded technology in certain areas, erratic operational parameters of the blast furnaces and lower availability of hot metal and slag ladles for steel making, lower availability of Bessemer Converters and Open Hearth Furnaces, indifferent industrial relations, power restrictions from DVC, etc. It is, however, significant that the capacity utilisation of IISCO has improved steadily from about 43 per cent in 1972-73 to 65 per cent in 1977-78.

(b) The work of the team of industrial engineers has not yet been completed.

Shortage of Petroleum Products in Orissa

23. SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL:

SHRI PABITRAMOHAN PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of diesel, petrol and cooking gas in the country and particularly in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the availability situation of these essential items in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) In spite of shortfalls in crude oil availability from Iran and difficulties in obtaining crude oil and petroleum products from the international market, all efforts were made to ensure supplies of petroleum products like diesel and petrol to various locations of the country according to the demand. The average sales during October, 1978 to January, 1979, of motor spirit (petrol) and high speed diesel oil have been about 10.1 per cent and 12.7 per cent respectively higher than those in the corresponding 4 months of the previous year. Similarly, during October, 1978 to December, 1978 and the first half of January, 1979, the average sales of motor spirit (petrol) and high speed diesel oil in Orissa State have been more than those of the corresponding period of the earlier year by about 17 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. Despite these higher sales, however, there have been reports of shortages in certain locations in Orissa and elsewhere because of movement constraints and low stocks of products in certain feeding locations.

As regards liquefied petroleum gas (cooking gas), the demand of the existing customers is sought to be met in full. During the last quarter of 1978, the normal average requirements of cooking gas in Orissa have been met by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (Visakh Marketing Unit). In respect of the cooking gas supplies made by the Indian Oil Corporation, due to reduced availability of the product at Haldia on account of maintenance shutdown and transportation problems, there has been a backlog. At Cuttack, the backlog in Indane supplies is due to problems connected with distributorship and supplies are being arranged from Bhubaneswar.

(b) All possible action for improving the inventories of products at the feeding locations and for increasing despatches to depot locations is being taken. The Haldia refinery is expected to be back on stream after the maintenance shutdown, whereafter the supply position in Orissa State is expected to improve. The oil companies are also making *ad-hoc* arrangement for transportation of LPG cylinders from Visakhapatnam/Barauni refinery, to the extent possible, to reduce the hardships to the consumers.

Replacement of Obsolete Transport Planes in I.A.F.

24. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to replace the obsolete fleet of Dakotas, 4087 LS—8.

Fair Child Packets, Canberras and the Avros and going in for purchase of modern transport planes for the I.A.F.;

(b) if so, what are the new types of transport air-crafts that are going to be purchased; and

(c) whether other countries have been sounded for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Government propose to progressively replace the obsolete fleet of Dakotas and Packets of the Indian Air Force by suitable modern transport aircraft. Canberras are not transport aircraft; however, they are to be replaced by the Jaguars Avros (HS 748) are not yet obsolete and there is no proposal to replace them.

(b) and (c). Government are considering various possibilities, involving aircrafts made in different countries. No decisions on actual purchase have been taken yet.

Bonus Issue for Defence Employees

25. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Committee to consider the Bonus issue for the Defence employees; and