

### Demand of Steel

47. SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the analysis of the demands for steel during the last two years and the current year;

(b) the extent to which the demands have been met; and

(c) particulars of steps taken to re-orient distribution so as to ensure equity and to prevent malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Domestic demand for steel has shown a growth in the last three years. In the current financial year it is expected to be about 15 per cent over that of the previous year.

(b) The gap between the indigenous production and the demand is met through imports.

(c) Appropriate guidelines have been issued to the producers to ensure equitable distribution. These are also constantly under review. In order to prevent malpractices Clause 7 of the Iron and Steel (Control) Order has been imposed in respect of certain scarce categories of steel.

### Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Indian Oil Corporation

48. SHRI K. KUNHAMBUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the grade of Rs. 3000 and above in the Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) whether it is a fact that no reservation is being given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Oil Corporation; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

### THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) At present there are only three officers in the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in the grade of Rs. 3000/- and above. None of them belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities.

(b) In respect of other posts IOC follow the instructions contained in the Presidential Directives issued to the Corporation from time to time in the matter of reservations for recruitment/promotions for person belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes communities.

(c) Does not arise.

### Proposal to provide relief in Prices of Petroleum

49. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps before the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting countries (OPEC) to provide relief from recent rise in petroleum prices announced by them;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken or contemplate any joint action with non-aligned and developing countries in this regard?

### THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). India has tried in the past to impress upon the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries the need for adequate differential and remedial measures to protect the interests of oil importing developing countries against rises in oil prices. The question of oil prices was also an issue under consideration at the discussions in the Conference on International Economic Co-operation held in Paris, OPEC have, however, not agreed to the concept of