

Storage of Kerosene Oil in Punjab

1103. SHRI BASANT SINGH KHALSA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase storage of Kerosene in Punjab so that regular and timely supply could be made to remote areas in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). The present tankage facility available in Punjab for kerosene is about 9,400 kilolitres. At the current daily average off-take of kerosene in the State, it is possible to hold stocks, including those in transit representing about 22 days in Punjab with this tankage. Expansion of storage facility in Punjab is linked with the construction of a pipeline for carrying petroleum products from Mathura Refinery to Jullundur, as the plan for this new pipeline also envisages establishment of additional product tankage including that of kerosene. The pipeline construction is scheduled for completion by the middle of 1981.

S.C. and S.T. Persons appointed on various Posts

1104. SHRI B. C. KAMBLE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes persons appointed in Class I, II, III or IV in his Ministry since the Janata Government came into power;

(b) the corresponding total number of vacancies in each class of services filled up during the period mentioned in (a); and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to make up the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Sponge Iron as Economical method of Steel Production

1105. SHRI K. MAYATHEWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether plans are afoot for producing sponge iron as a more economical method of steel production; and

(b) if so, the particulars and the quantum of steel production envisaged during the next five years by this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b). In order to conserve the limited reserves of coking coal, which is an essential input for the production of pig iron through the conventional coke oven-blast furnace route and to meet the shortages of steel melting scrap for use in the electric arc furnace units, Government have taken the following measures for the establishment of sponge iron production using non-coking coal as solid reductant:

(i) A demonstration plant with an annual capacity of 30,000 tonnes of sponge iron at Kothagudam in Andhra Pradesh, with the assistance of UNIDO;

(ii) A letter of intent has been issued to the Industrial Promotion and investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd., for an annual capacity of 150,000 tonnes of sponge iron; and

(iii) Setting up of a rotary kiln using the solid reductant technolo-