

(b) and (c). A statement showing the permanent Group 'C' posts against which officials have not been made permanent, together with reasons therefor and the action taken/being taken in this regard, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-45-96/79].

Agreement between Soviet Union and India for supply of Crude

214. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms and conditions in brief of the USSR for the supply of Crude to India, during the next three years;

(b) what will be the prices in terms of U.S. Dollars per barrel;

(c) whether the Russian Crude is cheaper than that of O.P.E.C. Member Countries;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) at what price India is purchasing Crude from Russia, as well as that of O.P.E.C. Member Countries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA). (a) A long term agreement between India and the Soviet Union envisages import of a total quantity of 5.5 million tonnes of crude oil from U.S.S.R. during 1977-80, comprising supplies to the extent of 1 million tonnes during 1977 and at the rate of 1.5 million tonnes per annum during the remaining period. Crude Oil contracts covering supplies during each calendar year are, however, negotiated on an annual basis.

(b) to (e). It would not be in the commercial interest of Indian Oil Corporation as also contrary to international practices to disclose further details.

Import of Fertilizers by Foreign Equity holding Companies

215. SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of fertilizers and pesticides imported by foreign equity holding companies operating in India;

(b) whether these companies are required to supply half of the imported fertilizers and pesticides to co-operatives on no profit basis for public distribution; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). No Foreign Company is allowed to import Fertilizers.

Information regarding Pesticides is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Petroleum Products

216. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of petroleum and petroleum products in various parts of the country during the past six months;

(b) if so, furnish details of cities/township, State-wise, where the problem was reported to be acute for quite sometime, and the steps taken to ensure regular supply of petroleum products;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to control/rationalise the supply of petrol and other fuel products in short supply; and

(d) if so, details of proposal under consideration/finalised?