

(b) Does not arise

(c) There is a proposal to augment storage capacity for crude oil and petroleum products equivalent to 90 days consumption.

(d) No, Sir.

Staggering of Power on Statutory Basis

393. SHRI A. R. BADRI NARAYAN:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments were asked to consider the possibility of enforcing staggering of power on a statutory basis;

(b) if so, whether in this regard Union Minister in this regard Union Minister had made proposals to the State Government;

(c) if so, what were the details of the proposals made by the Union Minister; and

(d) how many States have accepted the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Although certain guidelines on the effective use of power supply consistent with *inter se* priority of the various consumers, including staggering of holidays/closed days, suggestions for incentives to shift working from peak-hours to off-peak hours, were issued to the State Governments, no reference was made to the State Governments for enforcing staggering of power on a statutory basis.

(b) & (d). Question does not arise.

Agitation by Confidential Stenographers of Bharat Petroleum Corporation

394. SHRI MANOHAR LAL:

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:

SHRI BHANU KUMAR SHASTRI:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Confidential Stenographers of Bharat Petroleum Corporation have been agitating for equal status with Lady Stenographers in regard to their salaries and perquisites and if so, details thereof,

(b) the action taken by the Management of the Company to bring about parity between the two categories and if not, reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir. Confidential Stenographers of Bharat Petroleum Corporation, have in the past represented for equal status with Lady Secretaries.

(b) Confidential Stenographers are in clerical category whose conditions of service are settled through the process of collective bargaining with Unions, whereas Lady Secretaries are in the Management cadre. Since the conditions of service of bargainable categories are not comparable with Management category, the question of parity between two categories does not arise. However, after the take over of the Company by Government, Secretarial posts in the Management cadre have been thrown open to both men and women and there is no discrimination on grounds of sex for these posts.

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

Interview of U.P. Finance Minister Recorded by Lucknow T.V. Centre

395. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report in the 'Indian Express' of 17th June, 1979, that Lucknow T.V. Centre has recorded interview with Finance Minister of U.P. Shri Madhukar Dighe for telecast on June 2, 1979.

(b) whether it is a fact that the recorded interview was not telecast on 2nd June, 1979;

(c) if so, the reasons;

(d) whether a copy of the text of his recorded interview will be placed on the Table of the House;

(e) whether the Minister has received any communication from the Finance Minister in this connection; and

(f) whether the censor instruction came in the way of telecasting the interview?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. (The report on this subject appeared in the 'Indian Express' of 16th June, 1979).

(b) and (c). The interview with Shri Madhukar Dighe, Finance Minister, U.P., was on the U.P. Government's policy on sales tax and the agitation by traders on this issue. It carried, at one point, a personal reference to the President of the UP Vyapar Mandal, which seemed to contravene the guidelines embodied in the AIR/Doordarshan Code. It was suggested to the Minister that he may agree to the omission of the reference. Shri Dighe declined and the interview could not, therefore, be telecast on 2-6-79. Later, however, Shri Dighe agreed to record a talk on the same subject on 3-6-79 over All India Radio, which was filmed by Door-1466 LS-9.

darshan Kendra, Lucknow and was telecast from that Kendra the same date at 8-10 p.m.

(d) A copy of the text of the recorded interview is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4597/79].

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No censorship exists in the programming of Doordarshan, which is governed only by the principles embodied in the AIR/Doordarshan Code and guidelines laid down from time to time for ensuring impartiality, fairness and balance in programmes.

Negotiations between India and Britain for Purchase of Harriers

396. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:

SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH:
DR. BIJOY MONDAL:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state what is the result of the final round of the negotiations between India and Britain for the purchase of Harriers for aircraft carrier, Vikrant?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): The final round of discussions for the purchase of Sea Harrier aircraft for the Indian Navy is yet to take place. The negotiations are however in an advanced stage.

Cases against Swadeshi Polytex Limited

397. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Company Law Board has found *prima facie* case against the Swadeshi Polytex Limited belonging to Jaipuria group of industries and served show cause notice on them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said company has been accused of evasion of excise duties to the tune of several crores of rupees and