

for the manufacture of Dalapon. Dowpon and Dowpon S, subject to the condition that the final capacity for these item would be determined after at least 500 tonnes of the technical material were imported, formulated and marketed by the Company. For this purpose they were also granted an Industrial Licence on 24-5-1972 for making formulations of these items. However, this Industrial Licence was subject to the condition that in case their Letter of Intent for technical material was not converted into an Industrial Licence, the Industrial Licence for formulations would stand cancelled. The party's Letter of Intent for technical material was treated as lapsed on 29-3-1976 as their foreign collaboration proposals were not approved by Government. As a result, their Industrial Licence for formulations also stood cancelled from that date. However, the party continued formulation activity even after that date. M/s. IDL Agro-Chemicals were, therefore, asked to show cause as to why action should not be taken against them under Section 24 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for carrying on the formulation activity without a valid Industrial Licence. The explanation furnished by the party is under examination.

Fall in price of Onion

715. SHRI SHANKARRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that prices of onion have fallen to the most uneconomic level causing thereby, scare and discontent amongst onion-growers;

(b) whether Government have received representation of onion-growers from Maharashtra, Gujarat etc. requesting for giving support-price of Rs. 100 per quintal and exporting it through NAFED; and

(c) the decision taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Economic Adviser's index number of wholesale prices of onion has been showing a declining trend since January, 80. The index has gone down from 600.4 in January, 80 to 297.8 on 16-2-80. At this level it is higher by 71.8 percent as compared to the corresponding index of 173.3 last year.

(b) and (c). Several representations have been received from Maharashtra and Gujarat regarding the steep fall in the prices of onion, requesting purchases and export through NAFED as also for fixation of support prices of onion at levels much higher than the support price announced by the Government for 1979-80 season. So far Government have not taken any decision in the matter.

Plan to bring down the Demand and Supply of Petroleum Products

716. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been planned to bring down the demand and supply of petroleum products within the coming two years by 5 per cent in our country without affecting industrial and agricultural production by short term measures; and

(b) if so, the short term measures proposed and adopted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Houses at Rankhet (U.P.)

717. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to