

Diesel Supplied to West Bengal

2501. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of diesel supplied to West Bengal State during the last one year;

(b) whether it is a fact that West Bengal State is adversely affected due to short supply of diesel in regard to agricultural production and industries; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The quantity of high speed diesel (HSD) oil supplied to West Bengal State during the period June 1979 to May, 1980 was about 6,26,500 metric tonnes.

(b). My Ministry makes monthly allocations of High Speed Diesel to the States and Union Territories without specifying any quota for the different categories of consumers. It is for the State Government to make further allocations of diesel to different consumers. The State Government, including the West Bengal Government have been advised to give top priority to the requirements of agriculture for diesel. As a result, it is possible that restriction has been advised to give top priority to the might have been imposed in West Bengal by the State Government.

(c). The monthly allocations of High Speed Diesel to West Bengal have been made after taking into account the overall availability of the product, historical sales and movement capacity. Additional allocations of diesel were also made for West Bengal, over and above the original allocations, in response to the requests of the State Government in the last few months.

Tan India Wattle Extracts Company Limited, Madras

2502. SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total paid up capital of Tan India Wattle Extracts Co. Ltd., Madras;

(b) what is the total annual profitability of this Company and whether it is more than 50 per cent of the paid up capital;

(c) is it true that it monopolises in the production of tanning material of wattle extract used by leather industry; and

(d) have Government made any probe into its earnings with a view to ascertain if its monopolistic dominance in the field is not directed towards exploitation of the consumer by making undue profits?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The total paid up capital of Tan India Wattle Extracts Company Ltd., Madras is Rs. 36 lacs as per annual return of the company made up to 20-12-1979.

(b) According to the latest available information, the profits before tax of the company for the accounting year closing on 30-6-1978 was Rs. 21.52 lacs, which is more than 50 per cent of the paid up capital.

(c) The company is the only large indigenous producer of wattle extracts used by the leather industry.

(d) No, Sir. Nothing prevents other entrepreneurs from entering this field.