

providing better avenues of promotion for the Class III employees of these courts. The draft rules are under consideration. The position regarding class IV employees is being examined.

Crude Import Bill

259. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our crude import bill is likely to touch 6,000 crore mark;

(b) whether his Ministry has made any assessment of the impact of the spiralling crude prices on the current year's import bill;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government have explored some other sources of supply; and

(e) the steps which Government propose to take to meet the alarming situation in the content of the present general price rise in the country?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The crude oil bill for 1980-81 will be of the order of Rs. 3100 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In order to reduce imports of petroleum products steps are being taken to reduce their consumption. Some of these are as under:

- (i) Curbing inessential consumption of petroleum products.
- (ii) Bringing about improvement in the efficient use of petroleum products.
- (iii) Substitution of petroleum fuels by indigenously avail-

able coal wherever technically possible without inhibiting industrial production.

(iv) Government have set up a Petroleum Conservation Action Group with a view to devise ways and means to conserve petroleum products.

(v) Government have stepped up exploration and development of oil fields with a view to increasing indigenous production of oil.

Heavy Load Shedding in Capital

260. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the hot days of May, the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has resorted to heavy load-shedding in the capital, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether cases of large scale tripping and mismanagement in the running of the I. P. Station and Badarpur Thermal Power Station have come to notice;

(c) if so, whether he proposes to appoint a high-powered Committee of technical experts to go into the operation of these plants and suggest measures to prevent the entire machinery being thrown out of gear so frequently; and

(d) if not, what other positive measures he proposes to take to set matters right in these Plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. KHANI KHAN CHODHURI): (a) Yes, Sir. Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking had to carry out load shedding in the capital on number of occasions during the month of May whenever the power availability was less than the demand. The main reasons for