

As regards increases allowed in the prices of formulations during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78, since the number of formulations runs into thousands, the time and efforts involved in compiling details of such increases would not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. After, March, 1978, Government have not allowed any increases in the prices of price controlled formulations except on account of special duty of excise at 5 per cent of the basic excise duty levied in the 1980-81 Budget proposal on all the patent and proprietary medicines.

Foreign Assistance for Oil Exploration in India

5100. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI B. V. DESAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many countries have now come forward to help and assist India in oil exploration;

(b) if so, which are the countries that have agreed to help;

(c) whether Canada is among them and has offered a loan to India for purchasing gas equipment etc.;

(d) if so, what are the other countries which have offered the loan; and

(e) to what extent this will help India in oil exploration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (e): Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

मध्य प्रदेश में रतलाम में गैस पर आधारित एक उर्वरक संयंत्र की स्थापना

5101. श्री बिलोप सिंह भूरिया: क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रतलाम (मध्य प्रदेश) में गैस पर आधारित एक उर्वरक संयंत्र की स्थापना की जा रही है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस विद्या में अब तक क्या प्रगति की गई है

पेट्रोलियम रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री वीरेन्द्र पाटिल): (क) और (ख). गैस पर आधारित भावी उर्वरक संयंत्रों के लिये सम्भावित स्थानों की जांच के लिये सरकार द्वारा गठित कार्य दल ने बताया है कि इनमें से एक संयंत्र मध्य प्रदेश में स्थापित किया जा सकता है। तथापि, एक उर्वरक संयंत्र की स्थापना के निर्णय इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर की उपलब्धता कच्चे माल और तैयार उर्वरकों के परिवहन तकनीक तथा अन्य सम्बन्धित तकनीकी आर्थिक विचारों को ध्यान में रखते हुये किये जाती है। भविष्य में कार्यान्वित किये जाने वाले उर्वरक संयंत्रों के निश्चित स्थान के बारे में निर्णय लेना अभी सम्भव हो पायेगा जब विस्तृत तकनीकी आर्थिक अध्ययन पूरे हो जायें।

Shortage of L. P. in towns of Bihar

5102. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of L.P.G. for domestic use in Bihar towns;

(b) whether any plan is prepared for the supply of LPG to these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a back-log in refill supplies by the Indian Oil Corporation in Bihar Town due to the closure of Barauni refinery.

(b) and (c). To the extent possible assistance is being rendered by moving the product from the Haldia refinery.

Mixing of kerosene in Diesel

5103. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that earlier the prices of diesel and kerosene were kept at the same level to discourage mixing of kerosene in diesel;

(b) if so, whether present price difference of about Re. 1 per litre between diesel and kerosene will encourage the dealers to mix kerosene in diesel, to make huge profits; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avoid kerosene mixing in diesel by the dealers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Before the recent price increase w.e.f. 8th June, 1980, price diesel was higher than kerosene by 11 paise and 4 paise per litre at Bombay and Delhi respectively.

(b) With effect from 8th June, 1980 the price of High Speed Diesel Oil is higher than that of kerosene by 82 paise per litre and 74 paise per litre at Bombay and Delhi respectively. Government is aware that increase in direct demand for kerosene for purposes other than cooking and lighting is likely, if unscrupulous elements resort to mixing High Speed diesel Oil in kerosene.

(c) Considering the above fact, the Government have instructed the State Governments/UT administration to maintain close vigil over the delivery of the product to the retailers as well as retail sale of the product by them. The State Government etc., have been requested to draw up detailed scheme to ensure that the entire product supplied by oil companies reaches the consumers. The oil companies have also been advised to be in touch with the State Governments and to extend all assistance to them for preventing substitution or adulteration of diesel by kerosene.

States without Television

5104. SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) which are the States where television has not been introduced so far; and

(b) when will Government be able to introduce T.V. in Kerala State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) (a): The States where television has not been introduced so far are, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

(b) The television station at Trivandrum is expected to be commissioned in 1983-84.

Prices of Petrol and Diesel varies from State to State

5105. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the selling price of petrol and Diesel varies from State to State; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for the same and the measure taken by Government to bring down the prices of petrol and diesel where it is so high?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The difference in price is due to the State Government levies like sales tax at varying rates, local levies like Octroi charges and actual transport charges from the main pricing points to the up-country locations. Because the reasons are as above, there is no proposal to bring about uniformity in the prices.

Twin Scourge Droughts and Floods in Bihar

5106. SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are evolving an abiding solution to the twin scourge of recurring droughts and floods in Bihar; and

(b) if so, detailed measures the Union Government have taken or propose to take to meet the situation?