

(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?