

Crisis in Alcohol Based Industries

2998. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the alcohol industry has 60 per cent idle capacity mainly because of alcohol problems;

(b) is it also a fact that 250 large units spread all over the country, none of them are working in its full capacity; and

(c) if so, what steps Government is proposing to take to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). It appears that the question refers to capacity utilisation in alcohol industry. There are 120 distilleries in India with a combined installed capacity of 666.5 million litres. The alcohol production in the alcohol year 1979-80 is estimated to be 355.09 million litres. Consequently the overall capacity utilisation of alcohol industry is of the order of 53 per cent. The low capacity utilisation has been essentially due to the fall in sugar production and the consequent fall in molasses production in the sugar year 1979-80.

(c) At the meeting of the Central Molasses Board on 11-11-80, the State Governments were requested—

(i) to augment the production of alcohol;

(ii) to expedite creation, by the sugar factories, of adequate and proper storage facilities for molasses;

(iii) to promote the use of Khandsari molasses for alcohol production.

Production and demand of Polyester

3000. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the increasing domestic consumption and export potentialities of polyester fabrics, Government propose to expand substantially the production capacity of polyester filament yarn;

(b) if so, present estimated annual production and demand of polyester in the country and the extent of export for the current year; and

(c) the extent of increase in capacity contemplated, the details of the new units to be set up and the expansion of existing units sanctioned or under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present annual production of polyester filament yarn is around 9000 tonnes against an estimated demand of over 20,000 tonnes. Exports are mostly in the form of fabrics.

(c) These matters are under consideration.

Housing facilities to all Coal Mine Workers

3001. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide cent per cent housing facilities to coal mine workers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?