

(b) whether Government are also aware that against the plant's requirement of a minimum of 35 MW per shift, it is getting only 5 MW; and

(c) if so, steps taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The commissioning activities of the Talcher Fertilizer Plant had to be suspended in September, 1980 due to disruption of power supply. The supply of power to Talcher Plant was normalized with effect from the middle of October, 1980.

Pench Thermal Power Station, M.P.

3991. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made with regard to setting up of the 840 MW Pench Thermal Station in the District of Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the time by which work will start on such project; and

(c) time by which the Power Station will start generating Power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation has submitted the feasibility report for the 840 MW Thermal Power Station to be set up at Pench in District Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c). The techno-economic appraisal of the feasibility report has not been completed by the Central Electricity Authority, as yet. The techno-economic inputs for the project like water availability etc. have to be confirmed before an investment decision can be taken and the project can be established.

Import of Crude Oil

3992. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of measuring country's requirement of crude oil;

(b) whether Government have made any correct assessment on that;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (e). The task of crude import planning is carried out each year on the basis of estimated over all demand for petroleum products, the expected availability of indigenous crude-oil and the available-refining capacity in the country. The estimates are prepared every year by the Oil Co-ordination Committee, an organisation set up under the Department of Petroleum and approved by Government. The estimates are also revised in the light of developments during the year.

(d) Does not arise.

Petrol and Diesel Pumps in Country

3993. SHRI MOHD. ASRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I. O. C. and other companies (separately for each company) petrol and diesel combined and only diesel pumps as on 30-11-1980 in each State (separately for each State) as against 30-11-1979;

(b) the causes which hampered the increase in the number of petrol and diesel pumps in the country commensurate with the demand obtaining; and

(c) which of the above companies have been nationalised and since when and which of the companies