

the period December, 1979 to July, 1980 are as under:—

(Figures in tonnes)

	HSD	Kerosene
December, 1979 . . . . .	13432	5371
January, 1980 . . . . .	13735	5667
February, 1980 . . . . .	13420	8323
March, 1980 . . . . .	13455	6480
April, 1980 . . . . .	15700	8520
May, 1980 . . . . .	15770	8500
June, 1980 . . . . .	12500	5490
July, 1980 . . . . .	12500	5670

The HSD allocations in the earlier months were higher because of drought conditions prevalent at that time. Besides, the allocations have also been worked out with reference to sales in the corresponding months in the previous year.

(c) It will not be correct to say that kerosene and diesel are in acute short supply in Orissa. It is for the State Government to take steps for equitable distribution of diesel and kerosene and to ensure that the products are sold at controlled prices.

#### Thermal Power Stations facing Shortage of Coal

359. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Thermal Power Stations are facing crisis because of low stocks of coal with them; and

(b) if so, the reasons for low stocks of coal with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. In the case of thermal power stations nearer to pitheads, no difficulty is envisaged in maintaining sufficient coal stocks. However, in the case of thermal power stations which get supply of coal by Rail, most of the power stations have not been able to get enough coal supplies to maintain adequate coal stocks. Due to constraints in availability of wagons for movement of coal. Power stations have been getting supplies of coal less than the allocated quantity.

(b) The low stock of coal is due to inadequate availability of wagons and insufficient transportation of coal to thermal power stations. The matter has been taken up with the concerned Ministry.

#### Increase in Oil Refining Capacity

360. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI:

SHRI G. S. REDDI:

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

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase the refining capacity in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the number of refineries operating in the country and their refining capacity—refinery-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Several schemes for expansion of refining capacity and addition of secondary processing facilities have been approved or are being processed to increase crude throughput and middle distillate yields in the various refineries.