

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) and (b). Between July and September, 1980 the sales of High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil in West Bengal were lower than the allocation in spite of adequate availability of product due to low demand. As such, there was no scarcity of this product during these months. For October 1980, the HSD allocation was made at the level 5 per cent more than the original allocation for October 1979 made for West Bengal. However, taking into account the demand for this product, the allocation for October 1980 of 28,930 tonnes was increased by 2170 tonnes. The State Government have indicated a demand of about 65000 tonnes of HSD per month.

**Protection of Editors and Reporters of Newspapers**

374. SHRI CHITTA MAHATHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the action taken by Government for the protection of the lives of the Editors/Reporters/Correspondents of Newspapers in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): The Editors/Reporters/Correspondents like other citizens, are entitled to protection of their lives from the local administration.

**Judgement of Supreme Court on Powers of Parliament to amend Constitution**

375. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to seek a review of the Supreme Court's judgement restricting the Parliament's power to amend or alter the 'basic structure' of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have since been taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b). Presumably, the question relates to the recent case of Minerva Mills Ltd. and therefore it is stated that the Government have filed a Civil Miscellaneous petition against the judgment delivered in the case of Minerva Mills Ltd vs. Union of India (1980) 3 SCC 625 for referring the matter to a larger Bench of not less than 7 Judges for reconsideration.

**Selection of Foreign Consultants for Construction Fertilizer Plant at Thal Vaishet**

376. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have officially selected the foreign consultants to build India's four largest fertilizer plants at Thal Vaishet and Hazira based on gas;

(b) if so, the names of the firms so selected;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 31-8-80 about the wrong choice of the firms who according to the fertilizer experts had no knowledge or experience in putting up fertilizer plants and do not have sufficient experience in the field; and

(d) whether the expert committee which made the selection was specifically asked to choose consultant firm which had experience, expertise, resources to transfer fail safe technically to FPDIL and if so, how this guideline was fulfilled by the expert committee while making the selection of the consultant?

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