

a country-wide campaign to effect reduction in the personal consumption of petrol and diesel in view of the fact that by 1984-85 100 per cent of our export earnings would be required to import the petroleum products needed by the country; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the use of petrol where diesel could easily be substituted?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) The following are some of the important steps taken to restrict the consumption of petrol and diesel:

(i) The price of petrol had been raised to act as a disincentive for indiscriminate use of petrol-driven vehicles.

(ii) Central Ministries/Departments/State Governments and public sector undertakings have been advised to effect savings in the consumption of petrol in their staff cars.

(iii) Initiating studies in the State Road Transport Undertakings, having a large fleet of vehicles, for greater efficiency in the utilisation of high speed diesel oil in the transport sector.

(iv) Giving advice to State Governments to statutorily impose speed limits for passenger transport vehicles within cities and towns, and on local transport vehicles as well as to control goods and passenger vehicles with high smoke exhausts in order to achieve efficiency in diesel consumption.

(b) As the country would continue to be deficit in crude oil and petroleum products substitution of one petroleum product by another would not help conservation of export earnings or foreign exchange.

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**Setting up of Fertilizer Plant at Paradip Port**

3839. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has since taken any decision on the getting up of a fertilizer plant at Paradip Port;

(b) if so, the total expenditure to be incurred on the project and what will be its production capacity;

(c) whether any foreign assistance has been sought for the plant; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):** (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The question of obtaining assistance for the project from the World Bank and other sources is under discussion.

**Opening of a research and development laboratory for oil exploration with collaboration with Norway**

3840. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:**

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:**

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

(a) whether Norway has shown interest in opening a research and development laboratory in collaboration with India for intensification of oil exploration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction to it?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) At present, there is no such proposal from Norway.

(b) Does not arise.