

(b) A criminal case has been registered against the dealer under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. His licence has also been suspended and departmental proceedings initiated.

(c) A constant watch is being kept by Delhi Administration on dealers of kerosine oil to deter them from indulging in these malpractices.

(d) Yes, Sir. Delhi Administration has already initiated necessary action in this direction.

Cut in Crude Prices by Oil Companies

2638. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether major oil companies in the World have cut down crude Prices;

(b) if, so, whether our country proposes to reduce oil prices so as to benefit industry and consumers in this productivity year; and

(c) to what extent our country is being benefited by this cut in crude prices ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) A number of National Oil Companies have announced reduction in crude oil prices during this year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It would be difficult to quantify the impact of these reductions on a long term basis since it would be dependent on future prices as well as the behaviour of rupee-dollar exchange rate.

Thermal Power Station at Mangalore

2639. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government of India have taken in regard to establishment of a thermal power station at Mangalore; and

(b) by what date the thermal power station is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b). A project report for the setting up of a 2x110 MW thermal power station at Mangalore based on sea-borne coal was submitted by Karnataka State Electricity Board in May, 1976. In view of the high cost of coal transport by sea, the State Electricity Board was advised to select an alternative site. The revised scheme submitted by the State Electricity Board for the setting up of a 2x210 MW thermal power station at Raichur was cleared by the Planning Commission on 28-4-1978 and is under construction.

Installation of telephone in Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura

2640. DR. R. ROTHUAMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) numbers of telephones so far installed in the States/Union Territories of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura;

(b) number of telephone to be provided in these States/Union Territories in 1982-83; and

(c) any new programmes proposed to be undertaken in 1982-83 for improving the telecommunication systems in these hill areas?