

(e) what steps are being taken to increase our own production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) A total quantity of about 17.33 million tonnes of crude oil was imported in 1982.

(b) to (d). So far import of 13.5 million tonnes of crude oil has been approved for 1983. Keeping this in view, the quantity likely to be imported in 1983 will be less by 3.83 million tonnes than the quantity imported during 1982.

(e) Several measures have been taken for augmenting indigenous crude oil production. These include acceleration of indigenous crude oil production programmes, repairs to the existing sick wells, proposed implementation of a number of enhanced recovery techniques.

Proposal to Develop Alcohol based Industry

1515. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop alcohol and alcohol based industry in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There has been considerable development in the country in the production of alcohol and alcohol based industries. Proposals submitted to Government for production of industrial alcohol and alcohol based chemicals are considered taking into account (a) the availability of molasses/alcohol, (b) capacity already developed and capacity under development for the particular chemical, (c) economic viability of the project, etc.

In order to improve the availability of alcohol as feed-stock for alcohol based industries, the State Governments have been

requested (i) to ensure that all available molasses are gainfully used; (ii) to encourage the use of khandsari molasses for alcohol production; and (iii) to ensure creation (by sugar factories) of adequate and proper storage facilities for molasses. The Government had also set up a Committee of technical experts to examine the efficiency of alcohol production, improvement in technology for fermentation, fuel conversion and promotion of alcohol based industry. The report of this Committee, submitted to the Government in January, 1980, has been commended to the States and the distillery industry.

After the last meeting of the Central Molasses Board held in January, 1983, Government have set up three Working ups, one each on (i) rationalisation of various levies imposed by the States on alcohol, (ii) storage of molasses and (iii) capacity utilisation, to examine important factors of the development of alcohol industry and alcohol based industry.

Newsprint Policy

1516. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Newspaper Association met in New Delhi on the 17th November, 1982 to discuss newsprint policy 1982-83; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Government is not aware of "Newspaper Association" having met in New Delhi on 17th November 1982 to discuss newsprint policy for 1982-83. However, on this date, the All India Small & Medium Newspapers Association did meet in Delhi and according to the resolutions received from the Association, it discussed various matters relating to newsprint.

(b) The main points made by the Association at the above mentioned meeting are given below:—

(i) The amendment to the Newsprint Control Order requiring publishing of print order should be withdrawn;

(ii) The State Trading Corporation should streamline its working particularly concerning distribution to small and medium newspapers;

(iii) Timely and adequate supply of all sizes of newsprint to small newspapers should be ensured by State Trading Corporation;

(iv) The procedure for maintenance of accounts etc. should be revised drastically making it simpler and easier to comply with by small and medium newspapers.

Allotment of O.B. Van to Karnataka

1517. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has urged the Centre to allot one black and white outdoor broadcasting van (OB Van) to Karnataka to telecast programmes independently;

(b) whether according to State Government, allocation of OB van would help viewers in Bangalore to have two channel service—one of its own and other relayed from either Bombay or Madras;

(c) whether State Government has requested the Centre to provide a Relay T.V. station at Mysore;

(d) whether State Government has also impressed upon Centre the need to provide more coverage to Karnataka on TV as at present the viewers in Bangalore have been complaining that programmes relayed were of poor quality;

(e) whether the request of State Government has been considered; and

(f) if so, the details and by what time a final decision will be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doordarshan has not yet gone for a 2-channel service anywhere in the country. Provision of OB van does not mean additional channel.

(c) to (f). Interim T.V. service with a 1 KW transmitter was started at Bangalore w.e.f. 1st November 1981. For telecasting programmes relevant to Karnataka, a full-fledged T.V. centre is being set up at Bangalore as a part of the Sixth Plan. This 1984-85. Extending T.V. service to other places like Mysore, in the State of Karnataka, lack of purchase of cables and conductors; resources in future plans.

Sixth Plan Development to Suffer Setback

1518. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sixth Plan power programme is to suffer a setback if the present off-take of cables and conductors for distribution and transmission is not improved;

(b) if so, whether the slippage in the power transmission and distribution alone will be about 67 per cent of the target;

(c) whether this is mainly on account of lack of purchase of Cables and Conductors;

(d) whether State Electricity Board suspended their purchases of cables and conductors from mid-1980 and even refused to lift their requirements for which contracts had already been entered into;

(e) if so, the main reasons for not purchasing the same and whether any fresh orders in 1982 were placed; and

(f) if so, to what extent they were obtained and the steps Government propose to take to order and obtain cables and conductors?