

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production of petroleum in the country to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P C SETHI) (a) to (c) The requirements of petroleum products in the country are met in full by the Indian Oil Corporation and other private oil companies dealing in petroleum products. To the extent the requirements fall short and cannot be met from the indigenous production, imports are arranged from the available sources outside the country. Steps are also being taken to progressively increase the refinery capacity to meet the increasing demands of petroleum products.

Assistance to Bihar

984 **SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH**
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government of Bihar has recently approached the Central Government with a request that the quantum of Central assistance for the State's Fourth Plan should be increased by 75 per cent in view of the State's financial position,

(b) if so, whether the State Government has also requested to write off as 'unproductive' Central loans and arrange for rescheduling of debt payment to ease its financial burden, and

(c) if so, Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K R GANESH) (a) The Government of Bihar have from time to time been requesting for additional Central assistance for the State's Fourth Five-Year Plan. They have also represented that the grant component of Central assistance for the State Plan

should be increased from 30 per cent to 75 per cent.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Central assistance to States during the Fourth Five Year Plan is being distributed in accordance with the criteria laid down by the National Development Council which apply uniformly to all States. This assistance is given in the form of block loans and grants in the fixed proportion of 70:30. It is not possible either to alter the criteria of distribution of Central assistance among States *inter se* or the proportion between its loan and grant components. The proposal for re-scheduling of the repayment of Central loan, made by Bihar and some other States, was examined but was not found acceptable.

Decision to set up Coal Based Fertilizer Plants in the Country

985 **SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH**
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether any final decision has since been taken by Government to set up coal-based fertilizer plants in the country,

(b) if so, the number of such plants which are likely to be set up

(c) the sites selected for the same, and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P C SETHI) (a) to (d) Government have decided to set up three coal based fertilizer projects in the public sector and the sites selected are Talehar (Orissa), Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh) and Korba (Madhya Pradesh). The expenditure on these projects during the Fourth Plan period would be met from