

tion of Harijan voters by some politicians in several districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken by the Election Commission to enable the Harijan voters to exercise their franchise in full freedom during the ensuing general elections in U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) A joint complaint has been received on 14th January, 1974 from the Secretary C.P.I., Banda, the Secretary, District Socialist Party Banda and an M.L.A.

(b) During the last general election in U.P., the Election Commission had increased the number of polling stations for the convenience of Harijan voters and voters of the weaker sections of the community. It had also requested the State Government to maintain law and order during election period and to take adequate precautions in this regard.

Power Generated by Public Sector Power Houses

5477. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total electricity generated during the period July-December, 1973 by various public sector power houses in each power zone as against the power generated during the corresponding period of 1972, power house-wise; and

(b) the progress made in creating additional power generation capacity during the year 1973?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) A statement showing the total electricity generated during the period July-December, 1973 by various public utility undertakings in each region and the power generated during the corresponding period of

1972, power-house wise, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6607/74].

(b) An additional generating capacity of 612 MW was added during the year 1973.

Scheme to Augment Production of Ethanol

5478. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the oil shortage in the country, Government have any schemes for considerably augmenting the production of ethanol with the available sugar mill and khandsari molasses or other agricultural and biological wastes, industrial effluents and sewages; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). With a view to obtaining optimum production of alcohol with the available sugar mill molasses, a provision has been made in 1972 in the Molasses Control Order 1961 for separate funding by the producers of 33 per cent of the price fixed for molasses to be utilised for erection of adequate storage facilities.

Government is examining the feasibility of augmenting the production of ethanol with Khandsari molasses or other sources.

Exploring possibilities of Re-refining of Industrial and Engine Oil Wastes

5479. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted or plan to conduct exploration of possibilities of re-refining and re-cycling of industrial and engine oil wastes; and

(b) whether Government contemplate to conduct studies in the possible use of ethanol (power alcohol) to replace kerosene and petrol as an illuminant and to run internal combustion engines and irrigation pump sets thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Several organizations such as Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat and Defence Research Laboratory, Kanpur have worked out processes for the re-refining and recycling of industrial and engine oil waste. A number of plants based on these processes have been established. Steps are also being taken for the wider use of such processes, especially by major consuming organizations such as the railways, road transport corporations, etc.

(b) Because of the overall shortage of alcohol in the country, Government is finding it difficult even to meet the full demand of the industries, such as Organic Chemicals, Synthetic Rubber, Pharmaceuticals and Pesticides etc., requiring alcohol as the raw material. If any surplus quantity of alcohol becomes available at any time, this possibility will be duly considered.

Impact of Increase in prices of Crude Oil by Oil Producing Countries

5480. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of steep enhancement of the prices of crude oil by the Oil producing and exporting countries on India;

(b) the quantity and value of crude imported during 1972-73 and 1973-74;

(c) estimated cost of import of crude during 1974-75 at the 1973-74 level of import; and

(d) the impact of last year's enhancement of Central Excise duty on petroleum products on the petroleum consumption in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) As a result of the steep increase in crude oil prices since the beginning of 1974, the foreign exchange requirements for the import of crude oil and deficit products have steeply increase. Intensive efforts are, therefore, being made at all levels so as to ensure that there are no undue strains on the economy of the country.

(b) The information is as indicated below:—

Year	Quantity in '000 tonnes.	Value in Rs./crores.
1972	12,310	144.25
1973 (Provisional)	13,386	240.71

(c) It is not possible at this stage to indicate the estimated cost of import of crude during 1974-75 because of uncertainty of crude oil prices.

(d) As a result of increase in the excise duty of Rs. 1/- per litre on Motor Spirit (petrol) in November, 1973 the demand for the same recorded a shortfall to the extent of 19.2 per cent in November, 16.9 per cent in December, 1973, 23.8 per cent in January, 1974 and 19.5 per cent in February, 1974 as compared to the corresponding months of the previous year instead of growth rate of 5.3 per cent registered during January—October, 1973. With the near equalisation of prices of HSD and kerosene through fiscal measures, the consumption of HSD recorded a growth of 16.2 per cent during November, 1973—February, 1974 over corresponding period of the previous year instead of 11.6 per cent growth recorded during period January—October, 1973, over the period January—October, 1972.