

Supply of Petrol to Bangladesh and Nepal

9373. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government supply petrol to Bangladesh and Nepal Governments.

(b) if so, the value in terms of money of petrol supplied so far during the current year, and

(c) whether there has recently been any change in the agreements due to price rise in petrol and if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH-NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) Except for prices there has been no other change in the agreements due to the price rise.

Expansion of refining capacities of refineries in Fifth Plan

9374. SHRI K. MALLANNA:
SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:

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

(a) what is the total refining capacity at present in the country; and

(b) what targets are fixed by Government regarding increasing the refining capacity in Private Sector and Public Sector during the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH-NAWAZ KHAN): (a) The total refining capacity in the country at present is 24.05 million tonnes per annum. This includes the spare capacity available with the private refineries.

(b) In the draft Fifth Five Year Plan, the refinery capacity target is tentatively fixed at 39 million tonnes for 1978-79. In view of the rapidly escalating prices of crude oil and foreign exchange implications of the increases in crude oil price, the optimum refining capacity to be achieved during the Fifth Five Year Plan is still under consideration.

Low production at Durgapur Chemicals Limited

9375. DR RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the production level of Phthalic, Caustic soda and phenol at Durgapur Chemicals Limited are still far below the capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in the caustic soda plant for which the raw material is common salt, only 45 per cent of the plant capacity could be used due to poor maintenance of the plant; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH-NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). The production of the unit has been significantly below rated capacity. This has been caused by a series of operational problems as well as by the labour unrest, which has interrupted smooth functioning. The low output of the Caustic soda is due to problems in plant maintenance,