

President of India to press their demand for lowering the voting age; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The subject matter of the present question, namely, lowering of the voting age, is, already under the consideration of Government and no decision has yet been taken.

Kerosene Sale Racket exposed

2777. **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Kerosene sale racket was unearthed in Delhi in January, 1974, and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. One person was, however, arrested by the Shahdara Police on 30th January 1974, while selling Kerosene Oil in black market. A quantity of 850 litres of Kerosene Oil was seized from his possession. The case is under investigation.

India seeking U.S. Cooperation regarding Naphtha-based Fertilizers

2778. **SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has sought technological cooperation from the United States of America in switching production of fertili-

zers based on Naphtha to the one based on coal ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the U.S. Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting of Power Houses by Private Sector Undertakings

2779. **SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI :**

SHRI F. V. VIKHE PATIL :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector undertakings have been allowed to set up their own power houses in view of shortage of power in the country,

(b) if so, how many applications from such private undertakings are pending with Government; and

(c) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c). The private sector undertakings are being permitted to instal their own captive power plants only in exceptional cases where substantial fuel economy is possible by adoption of the total energy concept, utilising steam jointly for power generation and industrial processes or by utilising by product fuels or heat. Each such case for the setting up of a captive power plant has to be considered on its own merits.

Four such applications for the installation of captive generating plants which have recently been received, are being processed in this Ministry.

Allotment of Railway land to homeless in Panihati Area and Sealdah Zone

2780. SHRI SAMAR GUHA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government received a memorandum, including many applications for distribution of waste Railway land in Panihati area of 24-Parganas District of West Bengal among homeless for building homestead,

(b) whether these Railway lands are lying unused for over 50 years

(c) if so, whether Government will use the land for distribution among the homeless people, and

(d) whether similar representations have also been made to Sealdah Zone authority of Eastern Railways, and if so, the step taken by Government for distribution of waste Railway lands to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) (a) to (d) A representation from the Bhumi Mukti Andolan Committee Subhasnagar Post Office Sukchar, District 24-Parganas, West Bengal, and a large number of petitions from the landless people of the Khardah area of District 24-Parganas have been received. This land is an abandoned brick field, now being used as permanent way depot by the Railway and the question of distribution of the same of the landless people of the area does not arise

Intensified Oil Exploration and Soviet Assistance therefor

2781 SHRI SAMAR GUHA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have drawn up any intensified plan for intensified exploration of new oil fields in the country,

(b) if so, facts thereabout;

(c) whether Government have entered into any contractual understanding with Soviet Russia for the purpose

(b) if so, the terms and condition of such understanding,

(c) the main features of the schemes for oil exploration already undertaken

(f) the results so far achieved or expected in near future, and

(g) the facts about identification potential area inside the country in coastal belts or off shore areas of the country'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) Yes Sir

(b) The programme of work drawn up by the ONGC for the Fifth Five Year Plan envisages a large volume of exploratory work on land as well as on the continental shelf areas. As per this Plan the Commission's oil production is expected to increase from the existing 411 to 900 million tonnes approximately per year by 1978-79. Adding to this a production of about 3 million tonnes a year from the fields of Oil India Limited and Assam Oil Company, the total indigenous production is expected to be of the order of about 12 million tonnes a year by 1978-79.

(c) and (d) The cooperation of USSR for oil exploration development and production in the public sector in India has been a continuous feature and as per the recent understanding, the Soviet authorities have agreed to intensify their cooperation in terms of supply of equipment machinery, spares and materials and services of Soviet specialists for rendering technical assistance as also for training facilities for Indian specialists in USSR.

(e) to (g) On land the ONGC have undertaken exploratory surveys in almost all the areas of the country where promising sedimentary basins exist as well as in a number of areas in the continental shelf