

Assistance from Iran to meet Oil shortage in India

58. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

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

(a) whether Iran's Minister of Economy, Dr. Housnang Ansary, during his visit to India has assured that Iran will help to ease oil shortage in India;

(b) if so, the other subjects discussed and outcome of the discussions; and

(c) to what extent Iran has started helping India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). During the visit of H.E. Mr. Hushang Ansary, Minister of Economy, Iran to India in January 1974, the possibility of diversification of our trade exchanges with Iran and of increase both in quantity and the range of these exchanges were discussed. He indicated that in the light of her capability Iran could consider proposals for easing the oil shortage although Iran was over-committed in respect of her oil resources. The discussions on the subject are to be continued in Tehran later this month.

(c) Normal supplies of crude oil from Iran are being maintained

Japanese Credit for Fertilizer Plants

59. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN.
SHRI V. MAYAVAN:

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

(a) whether Japan has offered credit for fertilizer units in India;

(b) whether Government have examined the terms and conditions of the offer; and

(c) if so whether Government have accepted the offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). Japan has offered a credit assistance to the tune of 32.9 billion Yen (equivalent to Rs. 98.7 crores at the current exchange rate) to meet the foreign exchange cost of 3 fertilizer plants to be set up in the public sector in the Fifth Plan period. This offer has been accepted by Government. The loan, which would be repayable in 25 years (including a grace period of 7 years) carries interest at 4 per cent per annum.

Land acquisition for conversion of Howrah-Amta, Howrah-Champadanga and Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railways

60. SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land required for the conversion of the Howrah-Amta, Howrah-Champadanga and Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railways into a broad gauge railway has not yet been acquired; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Land for Howrah-Amta, Howrah-Champadanga and Dankuni (Howrah)-Sheakhala has not yet been acquired.

(b) Action is pending with the Government of West Bengal who are to acquire and hand over the land to the Railways.