

area on the left of the Mundeswari. The Committee had also stated that the need for additional flood storage dams might be reviewed after watching the functioning of the Lower Damodar scheme and in the context of the economics obtaining at that time. The suggestion for diverting part of the discharge through the Amta Channel had further been examined by the State Government and it had been concluded that, apart from the prohibitive cost, there were also difficulties in its successful operation.

#### Shortage of Kerosene Oil in States

876 SHRI JOYTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI ERA SEZHIAN:

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

(a) the retail price of Kerosene after upward revision of its rate by increasing Central excise duty on it in 1973

(b) whether Government are aware that Kerosene is not available at the fixed price by Government;

(c) whether shortage of this commodity still prevails in almost all the States; and

(d) if so, what steps, if any, are being taken in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN):** (a) The retail price of Kerosene Oil varies from State to State depending upon the quantum of local taxes. However, in Delhi it is Rs. 0.85 per litre.

(b) State Governments have been empowered under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against those found guilty of over-charging.

(c) and (d). The availability of petroleum products in the country was affected during the last few months due to a steep increase in prices and the general scarcity of petroleum products in the world market. As a consequence it became necessary to reduce the production of Kerosene oil in the refineries and correspondingly increase the production of diesel oils and furnace oil to meet the higher priority requirements of the power, transport, industrial and agricultural sectors. A uniform cut in kerosene supplies of 15 per cent in January and 20 per cent in February 1974 was therefore, made on the allocations made to the States.

All State Governments have been advised to ensure equitable distribution of the available supplies and to take steps against any hoarding or black marketing of the product.

**M.R.T.P. Commission's objection to the manner in which cases are referred to it**

877. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has taken exception to the manner in which the Central Government has denied its scrutiny of a number of cases of considerable importance to the economy;

(b) whether the Commission has alleged that sometimes cases not involving major issues are referred to the Commission while others which would *prima facie* involve important considerations are not so referred; and

(c) if so, the gist thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA):** (a) No, Sir.