

for location move but, unlike last year this time weather conditions turned out to be adverse in the Bombay High area and Sagar Samrat had to return to Bombay Port on 30th May, 1974.

Since then weather conditions continued to be adverse in Bombay High area for location move and for resuming drilling. It is hoped that Sagar Samrat will be able to move to the second location on the Bombay High structure by about the middle of September, 1974.

Import and indigenous manufacture of Cooking Gas containers

3683. SHRI SHANKERRAO-SAVANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) how many cylinders of cooking gas are imported every year and how many are manufactured indigenously and where; and

(b) what attempts are made to manufacture the entire requirement at home?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The LPG cylinder manufacturing capacity in the country is at present adequate to meet the demands of oil companies. There is as such no import of LPG cylinders into the country. Indigenous steel availability is, however, less than total demands. Import of 5,000 tonnes LPG steel was permitted in 1973-74 and the same quantity is being imported during this year. Technological constraints do not at present permit raising the level of indigenous production of steel suitable for LPG cylinders, as this is made out of killed quality sheets, the general availability of which is low. The question of increasing production of such special quality material, without disproportionately disturbing the production of ordinary steel is currently under examination of the Ministry of Steel.

Import of tallow and its substitution in Soap making

3684. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of tallow imported during 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974 upto end of June; and

(b) what steps are taken to substitute tallow by other ingredients in soap making?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) The quantity of tallow imported by STC, through whom the imports are canalised, during the years 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75 upto end of June and the corresponding foreign exchange involved for the years 1972-73 and 1973-74 is as under:—

	Tonnes	Rs./Crores
1972-73	63,783	9.16
1973-74	72,703*	19.92
1974-75 upto June	21,156	..

*This includes a quantity of 40,132 tonnes of palm oil which is similarly used in the manufacture of soaps.

(b) Government is encouraging the use of rice bran oil and minor seed oils such as sal, karanj, neem and mowrah in production of soaps and with this objective the excise rebate for use of the minor oils in soap production was substantially increased about a year ago. Government has also granted a number of fresh approvals for capacity for synthetic detergents, a substitute for laundry soap.

Shortage of Petrol and Kerosene in Gujarat State

3685. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of petrol and kerosene in the State of Gujarat in the months of July and August, 1974;

(b) if so, the main reasons for this shortage;

(c) whether this shortage has greatly affected the industrial production due to the difficulty in the movement of raw material; and

(d) if so, what steps were taken by Government to supply the quota fixed for the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). There has been no shortage of motor spirit (petrol) in any part of the country including Gujarat. Kerosene Oil quotas to States have, however, been reduced by 30 per cent since June, 1974. Some complaints of shortages of kerosene have, therefore, been received from States. Gujarat Government had also approached for increasing the kerosene allocations for the months of July and August, 1974. Curtailment of quotas are necessitated primarily on account of reduced product availability during the current year against demands within the limited foreign exchange availability for import of crude oil and other petroleum products of which there has been a steep increase in prices in the world market.

(c) Kerosene oil is not generally used as domestic fuel except for very small quantities in some industries like textile etc. These demands are also to be met within the quotas allocated to States. The distribution of State quotas is done by the respective State Governments.

(d) Kerosene oil supplies to Gujarat have generally been more than the allocations. During July and August, in view of requests received from the Gujarat Government additional allocation of 1,567 tonnes was made in July and 3,200 tonnes in August.

Licences of kerosene oil issued to Scheduled Caste people

3686. SHRI AMBESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Scheduled Castes persons have recently been awarded licences for sale of kerosene oil; and

(b) if so, the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Appointment letters to 6 Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates for Kerosene/IDO dealerships have been issued so far after 1-1-1974.

Unauthorised occupation of Railway Land in Bihar

3687. SHRI RAM SHEKHAR: PRASAD SINGH. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some railway lands are under the unauthorised occupation of some persons for a long time in Bihar;

(b) whether Plot No. 15 to 24 are also under the unauthorised occupation in the Chapra District in Bihar; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken against this unauthorised occupation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). There are some cases of railway lands under unauthorised occupation for a long time in Bihar. Necessary action is being taken to remove the unauthorised occupation under the provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act. However, plot Nos. 15 to 24 at Chapra Jn. Station are not unauthorisedly occupied. They have been properly licensed to Smt. Maharaji Devi and Shri Anooprai for the year 1974.