

**Non-availability of Kerosene Oil in Assam and Other Places**

2050. SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the non-availability and high prices of kerosene oil in Assam and many other parts of the country; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to meet the shortage and prevent black marketing in kerosene oil?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) Because of the limited availability of foreign exchange and the steep increase in prices of petroleum products it has not been possible to meet the demand of kerosene oil in the country during the current year in full. Quotas allocated to State Governments have been cut to reduce consumption. It is likely that this may have given rise to shortages of kerosene oil in Assam and in some other parts of the country.

(b) From the current month cuts applied on State quotas have been reduced to increase availability.

The extent of cuts which was increased upto 30 per cent in some months has now been reduced to achieve an overall saving in consumption of about 10 per cent only. It is proposed to maintain supplies on this basis for the rest of the current year. The State Governments have already been advised to have an effective system of kerosene distribution, particularly in the rural areas, and to take suitable action against black marketing of kerosene oil.

**Hindustan Lever Limited and M/s. Sharpedge Limited**

2051. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited has a substantial equity holding in M/s. Sharpedge Limited, makers of Erasmic Blades;

(b) whether the Management of Hindustan Lever Limited is holding a dominant position on the Board of Directors of Messrs. Sharpedge Limited;

(c) whether the International Brand name Erasmic has enabled its makers to hold an undue advantage over its Indian competitors; and

(d) whether the raw material quota out of which the ultimate product Erasmic Blade is made has been issued in the name of the third party who has passed on its rights to M/s. Escorts Limited who in turn is depending upon Hindustan Lever Limited for manufacture and marketing of Erasmic Blades and whether any enquiry has been made in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) As per Annual Return of M/s. Sharpedge Limited made upto 14th June, 1974, out of a total of 23,625 equity shares of Rs. 100 each fully paid up of the company, 11,217 equity shares, accounting for 47.5 per cent of total are held by M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd.

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

(c) and (d). This information is not available with the Department of Company Affairs.

**Communications from a Member of Parliament Regarding Raising of Viscosity of Furnace Oil**

2052. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in his communication to the Ministers of Petroleum and Defence and in his speeches in Lok Sabha