

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

(a) According to an assessment by the Geological Survey of India, about 18 million tonnes of rock phosphate may be available in the Mussoorie region.

(b) to (d). Exploitation of these mines have been taken in hand by the Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd., a public sector undertaking, under this Ministry and about 10,000 tonnes per annum are being mined presently. Proposals have been formulated for increasing production to 60,000 tonnes per annum, but no final decision has been taken.

Shortage of petrol, diesel and kerosene in Rajasthan

2090. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of petrol and diesel oil in Rajasthan during the last quarter;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) steps taken by the Central Government to supply the quota fixed for the State?

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

(a) There have been no reports of any shortage of petrol or diesel oil in Rajasthan during the last quarter.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No quotas of petrol or diesel oil are being allocated State-wise. Supplies of these products are at present free according to demands.

Supply of furnace oil to industrial units in Rajasthan

2091. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure laid down for giving furnace oil to established users and industrial units in Rajasthan; and

(b) whether Indian Oil Corporation is not releasing furnace oil to small scale industrial units of Rajasthan?

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

(a) Established consumers of furnace oil are entitled to draw supplies from their supplying companies. In making supplies a 10 per cent cut is however being applied over 1973 off takes in the case of 33 priority industries and 20 per cent cut in the case of all other industries. For any additional requirements, the parties have to apply to allocation sub-committee of the Standing Committee on Furnace Oil headed by Secretary and Director General Technical Development. After the approval of the Sub-Committee necessary authorisation is given to the oil companies for release of additional quantities.

A bulk quota is also placed at the disposal of State Governments with effect from 1-7-1974 to meet the requirements of small scale units and State enterprises which are not registered with any Central sponsoring authority. The State Governments are to set up their own mechanism for allocation of this quota. For Rajasthan, an allocation of 10,403 Kls. has been made for this purpose for the current year.

(b) I.O.C. is releasing furnace oil to all customers as per their entitlement based on 1973 offtake/allotment made by Standing Committee on Furnace Oil, IOC is also releasing furnace oil to customers to whom allocation has been made by the State Committee.