

Instructions issued under the essential commodities act for supply of petroleum products

2103. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders under the Essential Commodities Act to make it obligatory on the part of oil marketing companies in the country to supply petroleum products to retail dealers of other companies, if necessary; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines regarding the supplies of petroleum products such as high speed diesel, kerosene oil, light speed diesel, lubricants and solvents and wax to consumers through retail outlets in the country?

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

(a) An Order called the Petroleum Products (Regulation of Supply to Retail Outlets) Order, 1974 was issued by the Government in September, 1974 under which the Central Government has been invested with powers for directing an oil company to deliver any specified petroleum product or products to a particular outlet which may belong to any other company.

(b) Supplies of various petroleum products are made through a network of agencies/distributorships all over the country. Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel Oil and some Lubricants are supplied through the oil companies' retail outlets (Petrol pumps). Kerosene oil/LDO is supplied through agents/dealers. Some barrel outlets are also operated by the IOC for sale of Light Diesel Oil in Rural Areas. Furnace Oil is generally supplied directly to consumers. The above order has been made to enable the Government to ensure adequate supplies of product at any particular outlet if considered necessary in the overall public interest.

Inordinate delay in unloading of wagons by consignees at goods terminal

2104. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in unloading of wagons by the consignees at various goods terminal in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to expedite unloading of wagons by the consignees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) At times and in certain terminals, goods are not promptly unloaded from wagons by the consignees.

(b) The following steps are taken to expedite unloading of wagons by consignees:

- (i) Wherever addresses of the consignees are known, they are advised of the arrival of goods. Instructions exist that a list of consignments received on the previous day but not taken delivery of, should be exhibited on the goods shed notice board.
- (ii) Railways undertake unloading of wagons if the consignees fail to do so in time and realise unloading charges from them.
- (iii) Demurrage charges have been made sufficiently deterrent with effect from December, 1972.
- (iv) With a view to removing congestion in the goods sheds and