

(b) if so, to what extent the use of petroleum products will be checked?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C P MAJHI)
 (a) and (b) In view of the steep increase in the prices of petroleum products Government has taken various measures to reduce their internal consumption. Economy in consumption has, however to be achieved in a manner that the essential requirements are not affected and the industrial and agricultural activity in the country is not depressed on this account. The extent to which consumption of petroleum products can be reduced will therefore depend largely upon the reduction of non-essential consumption as a result of various measures taken and the extent to which alternative sources of energy can be made available.

Accumulation of Naphtha in Fertilizer Factories

87 **SHRI R V SWAMINATHAN**
 Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether there had been accumulation of naphtha because fertilizer factories were not running even at 85 per cent of their capacity,

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the fertilizer factories not running to their capacity and

(c) whether India had exported 1,30 lakh tonnes of naphtha during the last year and now there is a glut of it in the international market which has been resulting serious scarcity in recent months?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C P MAJHI)
 (a) There has been accumulation of Naphtha stocks during the year due to poor off takes by fertilizer plants.

The off takes have, however improved since November, 1974

(b) Unforeseen mechanical and equipment failures in the plants at Madras, Kota, Vizag and Goa and technological problems at Cochin and Durgapur were mainly responsible for low production and consequently, low consumption of naphtha. In addition, the plant at Cochin had to be shut down for nearly two months due to labour trouble.

(c) During 1974 approximately 1.24 lakh tonnes of Naphtha was exported. The present position of stocks is well under control and the requirements of Naphtha in the country are being met in full.

Construction of Kakosi-Bhildi, Harij-Sami-Radhanpur and Bhavnagar-Tarapore Railway Line

88 **SHRI K S CHAVDA** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to take up construction of Kakosi-Bhildi, Harij-Sami-Radhanpur, Bhavnagar-Tarapore new railway line during this year or next year, keeping in view the recommendation of the Sixth Finance Commission not to allot more than Rs 455 crores to the scarcity affected States

(b) whether Government of Gujarat has promised to meet the losses, if any, if these lines become uneconomic, and

(c) the reasons for not starting the construction of these railway lines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) and (c) Construction of Kakosi-Bhildi new line has been linked with the Delhi-Ahmedabad MG to BG conversion project. The report of the traffic survey carried out for this conversion is under