

Views of Chief Minister of West Bengal on application of M.R.T.P. Act to the State

**3840. DR. RANEN SEN·
SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:**

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views expressed by the Chief Minister of West Bengal opposing the application of M.R.T.P. Act to the State, while addressing the annual general meeting of Bengal Chambers of Commerce, and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDA-BRATA BARUA): (a) and (b) A report in this regard had appeared in certain newspapers wherein the Chief Minister is reported to have stated that the implementation of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act has adversely affected West Bengal more than other States, but Central Government have no information on the statement ascribed to the Chief Minister, West Bengal. In so far as the Central Government is concerned it does not intend to deviate from the well-recognised and accepted policies with regard to administration of the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969 in the States to which it extends

Railways under operation by companies

3841. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH· Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are still some railways operating in the country which are owned and operated by companies registered and located in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the name and situation of the railways and length of its route kilometrage; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to nationalise it in near future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Fall in demand due to increase in crude prices

3842 SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether since the steep rise in prices of crude, the demand for petroleum products in the country has come down;

(b) if so the percentage of the fall in demand, and

(c) whether this fall of demand is a World-wide phenomenon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C P MAJHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The consumption of petroleum products in the country during 1974 was approx 22.75 million tonnes as compared to approx. 23.49 million tonnes in 1973 thus recording a fall of about 3.1 per cent

(c) This is mainly due to restraint on consumption brought about through regulatory and fiscal measures. However, according to provisional consumption figures available a fall in consumption is also noted in the main consuming countries, namely, U.S.A., Japan, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and U.K.