

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to give adequate protection to traffic?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Government is aware of the problems being encountered in flow of traffic on Nh-39 and NH-53 in Manipur due to activities of various extremist groups.

(b) Government of Manipur has been advised to ensure that the movement of traffic on the National Highways is not disrupted. Whenever necessary, the movement of vehicles on these National Highways is done under escort. Army and Central Para Military Forces provide necessary assistance in this regard.

Damage due to Cyclone at Kandla Port

5960. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "IOC bungles on insurance for Kandla LPG facility" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated June, 30, 1998.

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government to the observation made therein; and

(d) the extent of damages incurred as a result of cyclones at Kandla port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) At Kandla LPG terminal, following facilities were covered against storm, cyclone, typhoon, Tempest, Hurricane, Tornado, Flood and Inundation :

1. LPG Dock pipeline outside the compound 3.5 Kms. long 2 Nos. 16" dia (one for propane and another for Butane) from Jetty to LPG terminal including Equipment Control Room installed at the Jetty.
2. Administrative, canteen building and security office are also insured against similar damages.
3. All the other facilities are insured only against fire and explosion. The insurance was done as per the prevalent policy in the Oil Industry. The estimated loss suffered by the Indian Oil Corporation's LPG terminal at Kandla, is expected to be approximately Rs. 7 crores.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

5961. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the licences have been issued for setting up of new sugar mills of Patarisi and Bijaua in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the present position of these sugar mills; and

(c) the time by which these mills are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) A letter of intent has been issued to M/s Bajaj Hindustan Ltd. for setting up of a new sugar mill at Patarasi, Distt. Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh.

M/s Bajaj Hindustan Ltd. have informed that they have purchased 54.7 acres of land and further negotiations are going on for acquiring the balance land. The company is negotiating the purchase of equipment with the machinery suppliers. Generally, it takes about 3-4 years to set up a new sugar mill.

As regards Bijaua, no letter of intent has been issued for setting up of a new sugar factory. Also, no industrial licence application is pending for this location.

[English]

Whole Sale/Retail price of essential commodities

5962. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between the whole-sale and retail price of essential commodities per kilogram in the metropolitan cities at present;

(b) whether any instructions have been issued in regard to the maximum permissible price difference between the whole sale and retail prices of these commodities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the prices particularly the retail prices of these commodities to protect the consumers?