

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether most of the traders involved in purchasing or importing huge stocks of petroleum products are also involved in adulteration; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government against such traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) the Government has set up four Sub-Committees of the Consultative Committee of Parliament attached to Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to study the problem of adulteration of petroleum products and suggest remedial measures. The Sub-committees are to submit their report within three months.

(d) and (e) As of now, no such specific instances have been reported to the Govt. However Govt. maintains a vigil on alleged instances of malpractices including adulteration, with a view to take appropriate action.

[English]

Improvement of National Waterways

1765. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce National Policy for the effective use of National Waterways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposal for Inland Water Transport policy framework and strategy for its development is under consideration.

Expansion of Projects of HPCL

1766. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has prepared a plan to expand its projects; and

(b) if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be started?

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

(b) The expansion projects taken up by HPCL on its own are as follows:—

(i) Visakh Refinery expansion project is expected to be completed by September 1999.

(ii) Visakh-Vijaywada pipeline extension to Secunderabad, for which the detailed feasibility is in progress.

[Translation]

Strength of Judges

1767. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH:

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

(a) the total sanctioned strength of the permanent and additional judges of various High Courts and Supreme Court of India as on date; and

(b) the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe, Minority and Backward class women separately as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court of India