

(b) M/s. Hindustan Photo Films Ltd. (HPF) has been progressively meeting the demand of black and white range of photographic products through its integrated production programme. For meeting the demand in respect of products such as cine colour positive, X-ray films, graphic art films, colour paper etc. the company is undertaking conservation for imported Jumbo rolls. The company is presently setting up facilities for integrated manufacture of polyester based medical X-ray, industrial X-ray and graphic art films. Jumbo rolls of all converted products are presently under OGL

(c) and (d). Four special types of X-ray films which are being manufactured by HPF have been shifted from OGL to the list of 'limited permissible items' under the current Import Policy.

(e) and (f). There have been some complaints about the quality and shortage of films. Whenever complaints are received, these are investigated and corrective steps taken either to replace the material or to advise the user about the proper usage of the materials. The company has a well defined quality assurance programme. It also maintains a good level of inventory to meet any contingencies

As regards prices, the same are guided by a formula laid-down by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP).

Fall in International Oil Prices

8750. SHRI SHANTARAM
POTDUKHE:
DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA
REDDY.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been a fall in the international oil prices;

(b) the Government's present oil import strategy to get maximum price advantage;

(c) whether Government are contemplating spot market buying of crude and petroleum products in the present day falling market; and

(d) if so, the quantity of crude etc. likely to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. However, international market in crude oil is very volatile and subject to seasonal fluctuations. Current low prices may be a short term phenomenon.

(b) to (d). Import of crude oil is made both under term contracts with national oil companies of producing countries as well as through purchases in the spot market. Prices under all our term contracts are now also market related i.e. they are fixed according to a formula linked to spot market quotations of crudes which are heavily traded on the spot market. Therefore, benefit of any fall in the international oil prices automatically accrues to us for upliftments under our term contracts also.

Quantities of crude to be purchased each month depend on the projected refining requirements, our inventory holding capacity of imported crude and upliftments under term contracts. Spot purchases are made as and when required to meet the balance requirements after term purchases. Presently, no additional quantities in spot market are being purchased because of limitations of inventory holding capacity.

New Trains in South Central Railways

8751. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONTALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: