

[English]

**Petrol prices**

8810. SHRI CHITTA BASU:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-  
DEY:  
SHRI MANIKRAC HODLYA  
GAVIT:  
SHRI R. N. RAKESH:  
SHRI NATHU SINGH:  
SHRISHEO SHARAN VARMA:

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

(a) whether the price of petrol in India is higher than the price in other developing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to bring down the petrol prices;

(d) the total import of petrol during 1989-90 and its cost; and

(e) the average growth rate of petrol consumption in the country during the Seventh Plan period and expected growth rate during the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). As per information available about some of the developing countries, the prices of petrol in a few countries are comparable or higher than in India. The price of petrol in India is administered by the Government and has been kept high with a view to curbing its consumption and facilitating subsidisation of petroleum products of mass consumption like HSD, Kerosene and LPG.

(d) There was no import of petrol during 1989-90.

(e) The average per annum compound growth rate of petrol consumption in the country during the Seventh Plan and estimated growth rate of the demand during the Eighth Plan period are as follows:

<i>Plan</i>	<i>% growth per annum</i>
VI (Prov)	10.8
VIII (Est.)	8.4

**Manufacture of Cement from Calcium Sands at on-shore areas of Lakshadweep and A & N Islands**

8811. SHRI ANBARASU ERA:  
SHRI MANORANJAN  
BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to utilise the Calcium sands at off-shore areas of Andaman & Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep islands for manufacture of cement; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Keeping in view the fragile nature of Islands' eco-system, setting up of a polluting industry like cement factory is not considered desirable.

[Translation]

**Power Crisis in Madhya Pradesh**

8812. SHRI PHOOLCHAND VARMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the details of the programme formulated by Government to meet the power crisis in Madhya Pradesh?