

[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?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN):** (a) Out of the tentatively planned programme of capacity addition of 38,000 MW during the Eighth Plan period in the country, it is anticipated that about 2950 MW would be added in Madhya Pradesh. In addition, the State would receive its share from the existing as well as planned Central sector power projects in the western Region.

**Expansion of Amarkantak and Korba Power Projects of Madhya Pradesh**

8813. SHRI PHOOLCHAND VARMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of Amarkantak and Korba Power Projects in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, when the expansion work is proposed to be started;

(c) the complete details in this regard; and

(d) the extent of additional area of the state likely to be benefited therefrom?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN):** (a) to (c). The proposal regarding expansion of Korba West Thermal Power Station Unit No. 5 & 6 - (2 x 210 MW) has been techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority at an estimated cost of Rs. 581.15 crores and investment approval is yet to be accorded by the planning Commission. The proposal regarding expansion of Amarkantak Thermal Power Station (1 x 120 MW) could be taken up for approval by CEA after the confirmation regarding the availability of all the inputs and clearances in this respect are obtained by the Madhya Pradesh Electricity

Board.

(d) As the proposed units are to be operated in the State Sector, the additional capacity generated on commissioning of such units would be available for benefits in the State.

[English]

**Use of Jute for manufacturing paper**

8814. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI MATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to make use of jute for manufacturing paper; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States where jute will be utilised for paper production?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH):** (a) and (b). Government encourage the use of agri-residues, bagasse, jute, etc. for paper making by allowing such units using 50% or more of unconventional raw-materials the facility of concessional excise duty. This facility can be utilised by and State where location of jute-based Paper Units is proposed.

**National Wage Policy for Railwaymen**

8815. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a national wage policy for the railwaymen;

(b) whether Government propose to take effective steps to reduce the existing gap between the minimum wages paid to