

MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). All carbohydrates including tapioca, when fermented, give alcohol which can be used in partial or total substitution of petrol. However, the use of alcohol in admixture with petrol as automotive fuel is not made or encouraged as surplus alcohol is not available on sustained basis. Further, alcohol can be better used for producing value-added chemicals.

(c) to (e). SHELL has a technology for this conversion and a pilot plant in their laboratory in Holland. No commercial unit, based on this technology, is reported to have been set up.

A process for conversion of natural gas into middle distillates has also been developed by the National Chemicals Laboratory, Pune. A pilot plant based on this process is being set up in Bharat Petroleum Corporation's Refinery at Bombay for testing the process and developing data for design purposes. This process could be used when it becomes economical and necessary to convert natural gas into diesel and kerosene.

#### **Role of ECL in Industrial Development**

1865. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ECL does not adhere to the Government directive to help in the development of small scale and ancillary industries of Asansol/Durgapur region of West Bengal;

(b) whether due to the growth of small scale in the region has been deferred; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to see that these directives are adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (c). All public sector undertakings under the administrative

control of Department of Coal including the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) have been advised to follow the Government directives to help in the development of small scale and ancillary industries. No specific case of non-compliance of these directives by ECL have been brought to the notice.

#### **Price Reduction Benefit to Consumers**

1866. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian scientist has succeeded in lowering prices of several drugs;

(b) if so, the details of the drugs involved indicating the benefits passed on to the consumers;

(c) whether there are any proposals to encourage such entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) The Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals has no such information available with it.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Since it is the endeavour of the Government to ensure availability of medicines to the consumers in abundant quantity at cheaper and reasonable prices, Government will welcome any such proposal.

[*Translation*]

#### **Fire Caused by Rail Tankers Filled with Crude Naptha**

1867. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: