

in the North Eastern Region and hilly areas, we are really finding it difficult to send trained people. So, we are imparting training to those people who are actually stationed there. Therefore, the question that the hon. member raised regarding reservation should not arise because we want those areas to function properly and people from that area are being trained in our institutions to work in that area.

[Translation]

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister where this training centre is located in Bihar ; if there is none, the time by which the training centre is proposed to be opened ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : There is a training centre in Bihar. As I have indicated in the list, a training centre is there and the number of such centres will be increased depending upon the requirement.

[English]

Storage Covers for Petroleum Products

*310. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that storage covers for petroleum products in the country will come down substantially due to shortage of funds towards the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period ; and

(b) if so, the number of storage covers with capacity at present available to cover petroleum products in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The adequacy of storage capacity for petroleum products in the country is continually reviewed and, depending upon availability of funds, augmentation done wherever necessary. It would not be in the public interest to give any details.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I do not understand what is the public interest involved in it which prevents the hon. Minister to give further details. Anyway, I would like to know the follow-

ing from the hon. Minister. When was the last survey done ? According to this survey, what is the latest position with regard to the petroleum storage capacity, the present availability and requirement ? What are the special efforts that are being made to improve the situation ? What was the money set apart for augmentation of the storage capacity in the Seventh Plan and what is the allotment made during the Seventh Plan ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Sir, the augmentation of storage capacity is a continuous process and in accordance with the growing demand. We try to see that sufficient storage capacity is built up. Ordinarily, we would like to have storage capacity for a period of 45 days. But, because of resource constraints, sometimes this storage capacity is not maintained,

Because of the strategic reasons and security and vulnerable nature of the products. I had requested that it would not be in the public interest to give the details. So far as the Seventh Five Year Plan allocation is concerned, we are finding it difficult to get money for the storage required during the Seventh Five Year Plan. However, nothing can be said as the Plan is yet to be finalised.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the difficulties or inconveniences that will be caused in this field, the field of petroleum products coverage, due to lack of proper facilities, what are the proposals of the Government to overcome this shortage and the inconveniences caused on account of it ? How do they propose to overcome it and whether this storage coverage for petroleum products need any sophisticated technology and any steps are being taken in that regard for foreign collaboration ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The difficulties which are to be faced for lack of proper storage capacities are tremendous and they are with regard to the supply of petroleum products to the consuming centres at proper time ; that is obvious. But it is a question of finding ways and means to construct or to provide for this storage capacity. Therefore funds have to be sanctioned by the Planning Commission and if funds are sanctioned by the Plan-

ning Commission, there is no difficulty in building up the required storage capacity. So far as the technology is concerned, there is not much of sophistication in this technology and we are ourselves competent to go for a storage capacity. There is no need for any foreign collaboration in that regard.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, the Minister is giving an ornamental answer to the question raised by my colleague Shri Sriballav Panigrahi... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : After having put all the ornaments, how does the question look now ?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Crude oil or petroleum is not a product, but so many by-products are there. He has specifically asked what is the installed storage capacity in our country ? The Minister said that for the purpose of defence, we should not divulge this matter. We are not asking for the location, we are asking what is the storage capacity for keeping 45 days bufferstock, required in our country, and what is the availability, what is the installed capacity and what is the capacity utilisation ?

MR. SPEAKER : He is justified in withholding that information.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : We must know the storage capacity.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I do not think so. Over-ruled.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Places he cannot tell. In public interest he cannot tell. So you are telling us only about the financial constraints. I do not think that for petroleum products, there will be any financial constraint. In each year, it is increasing day by day and we should be self-sufficient according to our seismic survey which was conducted two years ago,

The Minister should come out with detailed facts how far we are going to exploit petroleum and crude oil product in the Seven Five Year Plan after detailed product-cum-exploratory work has been done ? Will the money be provided ? I hope the whole House will join me in asking for these details.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not relevant at all. This question is regarding storage.

(*Translation*)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that he is fully aware of the difficulties encountered in the market due to non-availability of proper storage capacity for petroleum products. It leads to rise in prices and disruption in supply. I want to know how much money the Government will collect from the hike in the prices of diesel, petrol, etc. effected in this year's Budget and whether a part of this receipt will be utilised for augmentation of storage capacity or not ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is a fact that due to non-availability of proper storage capacity, a number of difficulties crop up and sometimes it may lead even to rise in prices. The profiteers take advantage of such a situation and start profiteering. So far as the amount of money that will be received as a result of hike in prices is concerned, the entire amount does not come to us, a big chunk thereof goes to the Government and we are not free to spend that money ; Planning Commission's approval is required for that. We can spend funds according to the allocation made by the Planning Commission. We have not yet received approval from the Planning Commission and we hope that in deference to your feelings, the Planning Commission will sanction us more funds.

[*English*]

Procedure of Granting Stay Permits to heads of Foreign Drug Companies.

*311. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure of granting stay permits to heads of foreign drug companies ;

(b) whether this procedure was not followed in certain cases ;

(c) if so, details thereof ; and

(d) the reaction of Government in the matter ?