

**AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT):** (a) to (e) Central government has given advice to the States that they should help fair price shops in obtaining credit facilities from commercial banks and other institutions. State Governments have opened additional fair price shops and have also intensified enforcement measures to prevent diversion of Public Distribution System commodities to unauthorised channels.

The credit facility to the fair price shops is classified as priority sector advance. Separate data relating to the credit facility extended to the fair price shops are not maintained by the Reserve Bank of India/Commercial Banks.

Central assistance has been given for strengthening PDS in the form of extra allocation of PDS items and financial assistance for buying mobile vans, as indicated below:

Additional allocation of wheat and rice to the extent of 10.59 lakh tonnes has been given to States affected by drought, flood etc., during the period July to November, 1987. Allocation of edible oils has been increased from 70,000 MTs in July, to about 2.00 lakh MTs in October and November, 1987. Allocation of sugar has been increased to 8.57 lakh tonnes in September-October 1987 as against 7.62 lakh tonnes in August 1987.

Department of Civil Supplies has also provided financial assistance to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Orissa during 1987-88 to the tune of Rs. 182.50 lakhs for the purchase of 73 vans to be operated as mobile fair price shops. Besides a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has also been provided to States/UTs for strengthening the Cooperative outlets in the rural areas during the current year.

#### **Reduction in Cost of Soft Coke**

\* 261. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether it is proposed to reduce the cost of soft coke for the benefit of ultimate users to encourage its maximum use in order to protect the environment; and

(b) if so, Government's plan in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE):** (a) and (b). The pithead price of soft coke used for domestic consumption is already fixed below its cost of production. There is no proposal to reduce it further.

#### **Production of Crude Oil**

\* 262. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH:  
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total production of crude oil in the half year ending September, 1987 was over 20 per cent more than the planned target;

(b) If so, what was the actual production and the target fixed for the same;

(c) the factors which contributed to the higher production and the likely production during the whole year as against the target fixed for the purpose;

(d) how far it is expected to meet the country's requirements; and

(e) the total quantity that would be required to be imported and the foreign exchange likely to be spent thereon during the current year?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMADUTT):** (a) to (c). Production of crude oil during first six months of the current year was 15.18 million tonnes as against 14.86 million tonnes planned. The target for crude production for current year is