

individual units have not been reported to the Government.

(c) Representations have been received that capital investment in the establishment of new plants and expansion of existing units has increased and, therefore, relief has been sought by way of rebate in the excise duty and reduction in levy quota in respect of new units and expansions which have gone into production after 1.1.1982 and also those which commenced production after 1.4.1986.

(d) The position has been examined by the Government and the following reliefs have already been given :

- (i) Levy obligation of all cement factories has been reduced by 10 per cent with effect from 15.12.1986;
- (ii) Retention price for levy cement has been increased by Rs. 24.50 per tonne with effect from 15th December, 1986;
- (iii) Payment of Rs. 9/- per tonne by the cement factories to Cement Regulation Account on the non-levy production of cement has been discontinued from 15.12.1986;
- (iv) A further relief in levy quota by 15 per cent of production has been allowed with effect from 1st March, 1987, to newer cement units which had commenced production on or after 1.4.1986. The levy obligation in respect of these units is now fixed at 15 per cent of production instead of 30 per cent for other new units; and
- (v) Newer units commencing production on or after 1.4.1986 will also be entitled to a rebate in excise duty at the rate of Rs. 50/- per tonne provided their production in the relevant financial year is not less than 30 per cent of the licensed capacity (as may be certified by the Development Commissioner for Cement Industry). The rebate will

be admissible during the period 1st March, 1987 to 31st March, 1990.

#### Contract for Karnal refinery

\*276. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :  
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the contract for the oil refinery proposed to be set up at Karnal is being given to a multinational foreign company;

(b) if so, whether terms and conditions for this purpose have been liberalised as no tenders therefor had been received earlier; and

(c) if so, whether this multinational company is also being allowed to undertake digging work independently ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (c). Government have taken a decision, in principle, to set up a 6 MTPA refinery at Karnal. Its mode of implementation is yet to be worked out.

Some foreign oil companies have separately submitted bids for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in nine offshore blocks. Preliminary discussions are going on with them.

[English]

#### Transportation of coal through pipelines

\*277. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to study the economics of coal transportation through pipelines;

(b) if so, whether any offer of foreign technology has been received for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to this offer ?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :** (a) Yes, Sir. An Indian Public Sector Engineering Consultancy Company has been engaged to prepare a detailed project report for a demonstration facility on the basis of proven technology.

(b) and (c). Offers have been received from foreign agencies for making a study, under Indian conditions, on the applicability of alternative technologies for coal slurry preparation and transportation. These offers would be examined and suitable decisions taken.

#### Procurement of Paddy in Orissa

\*278. **SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for procurement of paddy from Orissa during 1986-87;

(b) whether the target has been achieved; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) :** (a). No target of procurement has been fixed as paddy is procured for extending price support to the farmers.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Late delivery of telegrams

\*279. **SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :** Will the Minister of **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telegrams are delivered very late and in some cases do not even reach their destinations particularly in the far flung areas of Himachal Pradesh during snowy season;

(b) if so, the position prevailing in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure delivery of dak/telegrams at the earliest, especially in the areas which remain cut off snowy season ?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) :** (a) to (c). There are some times delays in delivery of telegrams. Occasionally, telegrams may also not reach their destination.

Efforts are being made to provide reliable telegraph service using various types of radio systems.

During snowy season, dak in Himachal Pradesh is conveyed through Seasonal mail carrier. For Chamba and Lahul and Spiti districts which get affected by heavy snow, dak is air-lifted through helicopter service with the help of Himachal Pradesh Government, once in a month from Chamba and twice in a month from Lahul and Spiti districts.

[Translation]

Shortage of kerosene in U.P.

\*280. **SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL :** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS** be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for acute shortage of kerosene this year in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is proposed to increase the supply of kerosene to Uttar Pradesh taking into account the population of the State as the basis for consumption; and

(c) if so, when ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :** (a) No reports about acute shortage of kerosene in Uttar Pradesh have been received in 1986-87.

(b) and (c). Compared to a total allocation of 235,500 tonnes during the winter of 1985-86 and of 219,260 tonnes in the summer of 1986, the allocations made to U.P. for the recent winter block (November,