

will resort to import in future or not. It all depends on the situation. Sowing will start in one or one and a half month. Import will depend on the production of sugarcane as also the requirement of sugar in the country. It is, therefore, very difficult to say now as to how much sugar will have to be imported in future?

[English]

### Sale of Adulterated Petroleum Products

\*205. SHRI BANWARI LAL  
PUROHIT:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA  
PRASAD:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that adulterated petrol, diesel and fake lubricants are freely available at the licensed and unlicensed outlets in the country;

(b) whether any raids have been conducted by Government during the last six months to trace out the unscrupulous traders of petrol and fake lubricants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what further steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) No, Sir. However, complaints are occasionally received in this regard.

(b) and (c). A Statement is given below.

### STATEMENT

The oil companies and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations conduct regular and surprise inspections of retail outlets periodically to check, *inter alia*, quality and quantity of the products and take action against the defaulters under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and the law/regulations in force.

2. Over 20,600 inspections have been conducted by the oil industry and State Government agencies between January and June, 1987. While cases of suspected adulteration did come to light, adulteration of MS/HSD had not so far been established in any of them. In keeping with the Marketing Discipline guidelines of the Oil Industry, the marketing companies have, in suitable cases taken action like suspension of supplies, issue of warning letters etc. In other cases, the State Government agencies initiated necessary action.

3. The State Governments have been advised to review, for cancellation or non-renewal, cases where licences for storage, etc., of MS/HSD have been granted by local authorities to persons other than dealers of oil marketing companies in order to prevent malpractices in the sale of petroleum products. They have been advised to also take preventive and punitive action against those who store and sell petroleum products without any valid licences, etc. This is being periodically pursued with the respective States/Union Territories.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyone is aware that kerosene oil is being freely mixed in petrol all over the country. 20 to 25 per cent kerosene oil is mixed in diesel and petrol due to which the poor people are not getting kerosene. Shortage of kerosene oil exists everywhere in the country. This question has been raised in the House many times and the Government has been assuring us that appropriate action would be taken but we have not seen any positive result so far. I want to submit that at least something ought to be done in this regard. It has been stated that 20,600 inspections have been conducted. May I know the number of cases of adulteration that came to light, the action taken thereon and also the number of people who have been prosecuted?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, I want to submit that in spite of acute drought conditions, efforts are being made to see that there is no shortage of high speed diesel. I have been to many places myself but haven't received any such complaints.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: They indulge in adulteration...

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: First, let me give a reply to the question which the hon. Member has asked. I will take up the question of adulteration later on. You do not understand what he has said and that is the difficulty...

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Only you are intelligent and no one else

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: You please try to understand him.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Choubey, this is not the way; you always interrupt.

[*English*]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: No Sir. I do not always interrupt.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am afraid the Minister has not yet come out of the hangover of Fairfax

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: The hangover is still on you. I have come out of it.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

In the past 3 years we have been inspecting 40 to 45 thousand cases every year. In 1984-85, there were 70 suspected cases of adulteration, in 1985-86, there were 57 such cases and in 1986-87, there were 83 cases. We have looked into the other kinds of cases also like short weight, etc. In 1983-84, there were 5 cases of termination, and 2 each in 1985-86 and 1986-87. In other cases of adulteration in which temporary suspension of supply is resorted to, letters are issued. There are certain guidelines of market discipline which are absolutely clear. Apart from that, we have identified a chemical called Pharpharal which is used for colouring kerosene oil. This chemical is being tested in our labora-

taries at present and the report will come out within 10 to 15 days. Then it would be possible to check the adulteration of diesel with kerosene. In high speed diesel, the percentage of adulteration is the maximum and this test will clearly show the extent of adulteration. Apart from that, we get it checked by the oil companies and the State Governments also do it. We have 70 to 80 laboratories and some mobile laboratories also. A control order in respect of petroleum products was issued in April 1987. We are going to issue a control order in respect of high speed diesel also. These are the steps which we have taken. I want to state from my own experience that we do receive other types of complaints but not of this nature. However, if complaints of this nature are received, we take immediate action.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Now-a-days sub-standard lubricants are available in the market. Even the residual burnt oil is sold and the people are fleeced in this way. Stringent action should be taken against such people. They charge Rs. 20 for the material worth Rs. 2 only. You should look into this matter. What measures are proposed to be taken to make the mobile laboratories more effective and to strengthen them throughout the country?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: In regard to lubricants, a new control order, namely 'The Lubricating Oil and Diesel (Processing, Supply and Distribution Regulation) Order 1987' has been issued in April this year. At present, we have 5 mobile laboratories under the Indian Oil Corporation.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: In reply to part (a), the Minister has said, No. In para 2 of the reply to parts (b) and (c), it is stated that over 20,600 inspections have been conducted by the oil industry and the State Government agencies between January and June 1987. It is also stated that cases of suspected adulteration did come to light. This shows that there is a large number of cases of adulteration. Adulter-

ated petrol and diesel and fake lubricants are sold particularly on State and National highways and in some of the big cities. So many times we have ourselves been cheated by these dealers. Therefore, they should keep a strict vigil in these places to check illegal trade in these adulterated petroleum products.

So, I would like to suggest that there should be a separate Vigilance Cell in the oil companies to conduct surprise raids on these dealers so that stringent action can be taken against these unscrupulous traders.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will please consider this proposal?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Your proposal is a very good proposal. There is already a Vigilance Cell set up in the oil companies to enquire into such cases. So, it is already there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHNU MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the dual pricing of kerosene oil, the consumer is not getting its adequate supply because its prices is low and on the other hand, the price of oil for commercial use is much higher. In this way people are facing a lot of hardship. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to revise the dual pricing policy and adopt a single pricing policy?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, the poor people make more use of kerosene oil. The Government's policy is to keep the prices of the items used by the poor people at the minimum. Therefore, the price of kerosene oil which is mostly used by the poor is kept low and the price of kerosene oil for commercial use is kept high. The wholesale price of kerosene is under the control of the Centre but its retail price is under the State Government's control and we are making efforts with the cooperation of the State Governments to ensure that

there are no irregularities committed. But if we increase the price of kerosene oil, it will have adverse effects on the poor consumers which we do not want. Therefore, we will have to maintain dual pricing policy and we do not intend to revise it for the time being.

[*English*]

### **Expansion of Telecommunication Facilities in Hilly Areas**

\*208. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive plan has been prepared for the expansion of telecommunication facilities in the country, especially in the hilly and inaccessible areas;

(b) the details thereof and the progress made so far under the current Five Year Plan; and

(c) the targets expected to be achieved by the end of the Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is given below

#### **STATEMENT**

The Department of Telecommunications has formulated a liberalised policy of providing long distance public telephones in the rural, hilly, backward and tribal areas of the country. Under this policy the country has been divided into Hexagons of 5 Km side each. It is proposed to provide a long distance public telephone on fully subsidized basis at a principal village in each hexagon progressively. Hexagons with population of 5000 or more in normal areas and 2000 in hilly/backward areas are given priority for providing telephone facility.

Further, if there is a registered demand for 10, 23 & 46 telephone connections, a new