

Supply of Diesel in Gujarat

224 SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that short supply of diesel in Gujarat has already affected agricultural production in that State; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to meet the requirement of diesel of Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Monthly allocations of High Speed Diesel Oil (HSD) are being made by the Central Government to all States and Union Territories, including Gujarat, taking into account the past consumption and other relevant factors. The allocation of the product between different sectors is to be done by the State Government. The State Governments have been advised to give the highest priority in the matter of supplies of diesel to agriculture. It is not possible to indicate whether agricultural production in the State has been affected, in spite of this priority in supply to this sector.

(b) Additional allocations of High Speed Diesel over and above the original allocations have been made for Gujarat State whenever necessary and possible. The overall supply situation of this product has considerably improved in Gujarat in the last few months.

Feeder Canal of Farakka Affected due to Insufficient Water

*225. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the feeder canal of Farakka was seriously affected due to insufficient water; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) and (b). Although there has been no report of the Feeder Canal of Farakka Project being seriously affected, the low flows in the Feeder Canal this year between January and May have proved to be of great disadvantage to the Bhagirathi-Hooghly and the Calcutta Port. The flows in the Feeder Canal during this period went down to as low as 11,000 cusecs against the design capacity of the Canal of 40,000 cusecs.

The Agreement reached between India and Bangladesh in November 1977 provides that the flows of the Ganga should be augmented. The efforts of the Government of India have been to expedite reaching an understanding on the long-term scheme of augmentation. The Agreement also provides for reviews, the first one becoming due in November 1980 and another in May 1982. The abnormally low flows in the Feeder Canal during the last season is an important factor which would be raised by the Government of India during the reviews.

The Government of India are pursuing all possibilities to ensure the full requirements of Calcutta Port.

Workers Fainted in the Damodar Colliery near Raniganj, West Bengal

*226. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the reported incidents of 30 workers fainting underground in the mines of the Damodar Colliery near Raniganj, in