

diesel engines. The problem is not really a technical one in using an alcohol-petrol diesel mixture but the lack of availability of surplus alcohol in large quantities in the country; and considerations relating to the best use one can make of alcohol as and when available.

There is no need to develop prototype of gasohol engines as gasohol can be used in the automobiles which are presently on the road in India without any modification. The present strategy of the Government is to increase the alcohol production using a variety of feed materials and conversion processes, in addition to the traditional one from molasses. Only with sufficient production of alcohol can one consider its availability for transportation.

Economic Condition in Ladakh

*821. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Ladakhi delegation has urged Government to depute a Central team to study the economic condition in Ladakh; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government to it?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The gaps to be covered and the problems to be solved in the Ladakh region are, as in many other parts of the country, numerous. A careful determination of the hierarchy of priorities in the regional perspective of Ladakh, proper distribution of outlays in its two districts and implementation in a phased manner are crucial in this context. The primary responsibility for this is that of the State Government. The delegation has also met the Cabinet Committee of the State Government and certain specific understandings is reported to have been arrived at. It is necessary that these are ope-

rationalised instead of constituting a Central Study Team.

Epic struggle of Punnappa-Vayalar as a Freedom Fight

*822. SHRI NARAIN CHOUBEY:
SHRI BHOGENDRAS JHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received representation from the Punnappa-Vayalar Swathanthrya Samara Seva Samrakhana Samithi Alleppy Kerala to regard the epic struggle of the people of Punnappa-Vayalar as a freedom fight;

(b) whether Government propose to consider the above struggle in October, 1946 as freedom fight; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question of recognising Punnappa-Vayalar Struggle in the erstwhile Travancore State as qualifying for Central freedom fighters pension is under consideration of the Government.

कच्चे माल की कमी

*823. श्री राम प्यारे पनिका : क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या लघु उद्योग कच्चे माल की कमी के कारण कठिनाइयों का सामना कर रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उन उद्योगों के नाम क्या हैं जो इसके कारण संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं;