

and Industry which indicated that the capacity utilization in core industries had fallen from 85 per cent in 1970-71 to 78.6 per cent in 1980-81;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in the matter; and

(c) the estimated percentage of capacity utilization in core industries during 1981-82?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES, (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI):

(a) In a Background Paper prepared by the FICCI for a Workshop on the Role of Industry in the Sixth Plan, it has been mentioned that capacity utilisation has fallen from 85% in 1970-71 to 78.6% in 1980-81. Capacity utilisation figures of 85.2% in 1970-71 and 78.6% in 1980-81 have been found in a pin-up of the January 1982 issue of the Monthly Review of the Indian Economy published by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

(b) Government is not advised of the methodology of derivation of these figures.

Government have already taken a large number of measures towards ensuring higher capacity utilisation, regularisation of excess capacity and allowing capacity expansion in selected industries, removal of infrastructural bottlenecks and monitoring the progress of production.

A Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure has been reviewing the problems of the infrastructure industries and issuing directions for taking suitable remedial action.

A central monitoring of key areas of production and infrastructure has been introduced. Monthly production targets have been framed and they are being monitored. This is being integrated with net work planning covering infrastructure.

A Control Room has been set up in the Ministry of Industry with the objective of monitoring production constraints in respect of selected key industries.

Optimum utilisation of Industrial capacity is the corner stone of Government's industrial policy. All the policy instruments and procedural systems are being addressed to further improve utilisation of capacities.

(c) Industrial production data for the whole year 1981-82 have not yet become available from the CSO. However, it has been observed that a number

of important industries capacity utilisation has improved during 1981. Available information shows that there has been an improvement in capacity utilisation in 44 selected industries in 1981 compared to 1980.

Pricing Policy of Tractors

*633. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial costs and prices has made some suggestions to Government regarding the pricing policy of tractors ;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government on them ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) were asked to undertake a study of the cost structure of the tractor industry. In their report, the BICP have *inter-alia* made suggestions regarding the present scheme of price surveillance and distribution control and measures for stimulating tractor production in the country. The report is under examination.

Production of Oil from Refuse

*634. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that high quality of oil is being produced from refuse by a new process which, according to scientists, could also be applied to plants and trees ;

(b) if so, whether according to the scientists, conversion on a commercial scale would cost about 15 dollars a barrel less than half the present market price of crude ;

(c) whether India is also taking such steps ; and

(d) if not, the main reasons thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (d). Oil or other combustible fuels can be produced from refuse as well as other materials containing organic matter such as plants and trees.