

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Statement

Tuesday, February 17, 1981/Magha
28, 1902 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.

MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Regulating use of Petrol

*1. SHRI A. T. PATIL:
SHRI NARAYAN CHOU-
BEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM,
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of prices of petrol and petroleum products being constantly raised by the OPEC countries and in view of consequent ever-increasing import bill on petrol, Government propose to regulate use of Petrol so as to reduce its import;

(b) if so, what are the proposals of Government in the matter; and

(c) what other steps Government propose to take to reduce the import bill and to save the national economy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM,
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c).
The requisite information is laid
on the Table of the Sabha.

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(a) and (b). Motor spirit (Petrol) accounts for only about 5 per cent of the total consumption of petroleum products in the country. The following are some of the important steps taken by the Government to restrict the consumption of petrol:—

(i) The price of petrol had been raised to act as a disincentive for indiscriminate use of petrol-driven vehicles.

(ii) Central Ministries|Departments|State Governments and public sector undertakings had been advised to effect savings in the consumption of petrol in their staff cars.

(c) The following are some of the important steps taken to bring about economy and efficiency in the use of petroleum products in the country:—

(i) Introduction of an improved version of kerosene wick stove possessing a thermal efficiency of about 60 per cent as against the thermal efficiency of 40 per cent to 45 per cent possessed by other kerosene wick stoves usually sold in the market.

(ii) Initiating studies in the State Road Transport Undertakings having a large fleet of vehicles, for greater efficiency in the utilisation of high speed diesel oil in the transport sector;

(iii) Giving advice to State Governments to statutorily impose speed limits for passenger transport vehicles within cities and towns, and on local transport vehicles, as well as to control goods

and passenger vehicles with high smoke exhausts in order to achieve efficiency in diesel consumption;

(iv) Substitution of Furnace Oil by coal, wherever it is technologically feasible;

(v) Providing advisory service to the industries for the adoption of measures aimed at improvement of efficiency in the use of furnace oil; and

(vi) Issuing detailed guidelines for energy conservation.

SHRI A. T. PATIL: (a) What was the annual consumption of petrol in quantity and to what extent it is reduced by the measures stated in reply to the questions (a) and (b). (b) Did Government assess the possibility and feasibility of (i) rationing the supply of petrol, (ii) enforcing holidays for users of petrol-driven cars and (iii) restricting the admissibility of expenditure on use of cars by individuals and companies for deduction from the total income for the purpose of income-tax to a specific maximum limit?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The consumption of petrol out of the total petroleum products is only 5 per cent. In 1979-80 the consumption was 1.43 million tonnes, as against a total consumption of 1.52 million tonnes in 1973-74. So, the growth rate, as far as the consumption of petrol is concerned, is quite under control and there is no necessity for any control to be enforced.

SHRI A. T. PATIL: (a) What is the action taken for finding sources of alternative energy apart from kerosene and furnace oil by coal, to replace petrol and with what effect? (b) What sources of alternative energy are adopted in other countries of the world and with what effect? (c) to what extent the import bill on petrol and petroleum products is expected to be reduced during the next year by adopting the available measures?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as alternative sources for consumption of petrol is concerned, successful experiment has been done by mixing alcohol. But, unfortunately, alcohol is also in short supply and, therefore, this cannot be experimented upon. As far as other alternative sources of energy are concerned some countries like South Africa and America have produced methanol and motor spirit from coal. But we have not reached that stage.

श्रीमती प्रमिला दंडवते : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सवाल यह है कि यह जो पेट्रोल के दाम बढ़ते जाते हैं तो किसान रेली के लिए इतने बड़े पैमानेपर फोरन एक्सचेंज खत्म कर के जो पेट्रोल का इस्तेमाल हुआ है, उसको रोकने के लिए (ध्वषधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arakal

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: The hon. Minister said that only 5 per cent of petrol is consumed by cars and other vehicles. Considering the plight of the taxiwallas, scooterwallas etc., will the hon. Minister consider not to raise the prices of petroleum products in the near future?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, unfortunately I cannot give that assurance because any price increase in the petroleum products depends on the OPEC prices and if the OPEC prices go up, then in that matter the Government is helpless.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any steps have been taken to generate energy through tidal wave and other resources of energy, and whether the Government has entered into any agreement with any other country in this regard.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The Government has taken a decision in principle to appoint an Alternative Energy Commission and the new Commission, when it is established will take care

of the tidal wave and other sources of energy.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, question No. 2—Mr. Madhukar. He is not here.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Sir, you must take note about the absence of Members.

MR. SPEAKER: How many times? Mr. Sathe, all the hon. Members are supposed to be here. They are much more responsible. They are considered to be responsible, they are supposed to be responsible. I have pointed it out to many times,

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: A majority of the Members who are absentees are from Congress (I).
(Interruptions)

Vacant Posts of Supreme Court Judges

3. †SHRI R. L. VERMA:
SHRI D. P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the number of posts of Supreme Court and High Court judges,

(court-wise) which are lying vacant and since when;

(b) the reasons for delay in filing up the posts; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) On 1-2-1981, there were 2 vacancies in the Supreme Court. These vacancies could be related to 15-11-1980 and 16-1-1981. On 1-2-1981, there were 83 posts of Judges to be filled in the High Courts. Their break-up, High Court-wise, and the dates from which the vacancies arose are given in the attached statement.

(b) In so far as the Supreme Court is concerned, the vacancies are recent and proposals have yet to be received. In the case of High Courts, firm and complete proposals in their complete form are awaited from the State authorities in most cases. A few proposals have been received and these are being attended to.

(c) It is not possible to indicate any specific period by which these vacancies will be filled. However, the State authorities are being constantly reminded to send their recommendations.

Statement

Posts of Judges to be filled in various High Courts as on 1st February, 1981

Sl. No.	High Court	Vacancies	Date from which vacancies shown in col. 3 have arisen
1	2	3	4
1	Allahabad	12	30-7-1980 30-7-1980 30-7-1980 30-7-1980 4-11-1980 26-12-1980 30-1-1981 7-2-1981
2	Andhra Pradesh	4	16-3-1979

* (Reg. remaining 4 posts, see footnote)