

- (ii) As a first step it would be necessary to amend some provisions in the Constitution so as to reflect the concept of water as a national asset and to provide for the settlement of inter-State river disputes by conciliation, arbitration or otherwise. Views of the State Governments have been sought on the proposed amendments;
- (iii) Ayacut development programmes have been taken up on major projects in the country where provision is made for suitable coordination of activities of various departments;
- (iv) The Central Ground Water Board has already started the work of detailed assessment of groundwaters and the Ministry of Health and Family Planning are processing a bill for Water Pollution Prevention;
- (v) The question of a longer term loans, concessional rates of interest and a suitably phased repayment schedule, after benefits start flowing in, have been brought to the notice of the Finance Commission;
- (vi) The Indian Law Institute is being asked to draw up model legislation for Irrigation Acts and Codes for the use of the States; and
- (vii) A national flood forecasting programme has already been taken up. The importance of flood fighting, flood warning and flood defence are being continuously emphasised on State Governments. Flood insurance will have to await experience of crop insurance programmes under contemplation. International Cooperation and joint planning are being already done with Bangla Desh.

Variance in Prices charged by Oil companies in States

*316. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices charged by the Oil Companies for their products are different in different States; and

(b) if so, the State-wise break-up of the prices charged and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b). The prices of bulk refined petroleum products like motor spirit or petrol, high speed diesel oil, light diesel oil, etc. are fixed by the Government from time to time on the basis of the recommendations of the Oil Pricing Committees. For the purposes of fixing the basic ceiling selling price, the country has been divided into 12 pricing zones. These are based on the 8 main ports and 4 inland refineries in the country. The pricing zones are not fixed on the basis of the State boundaries. While the basic ceiling selling price in a pricing zone would be the same, the retail selling price in any location within the pricing zone would consist of the basic ceiling selling price and freight from the respective pricing point and other local charges like octroi, sales tax, etc. The retail selling prices at the different locations may thus be different. Under the present pricing arrangement, uniform retail prices of products at different locations in the same State or anywhere in the country have not been contemplated.

बड़े जंकशन स्टेशनों पर कानूनी ड्राइलियों का बंद करना

*317. श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने यह तय किया है कि कुछ बड़े-बड़े जंकशन स्टेशनों पर कानूनी ड्राइलियाँ बंद कर दी जायें;