

(a) whether the construction of the Tube Railway at Calcutta has run into difficulties causing fears that the project may not be completed in a decade;

(b) if so, the reasons for the crisis; and

(c) steps proposed to salvage the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) The Calcutta underground project is the first of its kind in a developing country like India. Although its implementation will be facing difficult problems such as importation of stores and equipment not made in the country, acquisition of land, diversion of road traffic etc. the completion of the Project within a decade is still envisaged.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Shortage of Lubricants

97. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of lubricants in the country;

(b) if so, the extent thereof; and

(c) steps taken to make these lubricants available for production purposes?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). While there is a large surplus of secondary grades, the unsatisfied demand for premium grades is estimated at 4,000 KI per month.

(c) (i) Attempts are being made to increase the production of premium grade lubricants at the refineries; and

(ii) IOC is planning import of base oils to supplement indigenous production for the manufacture of premium grade lubricants.

#### Increase in India's Oil Import Bill

\*399. SHRI P. GANGADEB:  
SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATTA:

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

(a) whether India's oil import bill this year will exceed the estimated amount;

(b) if so, the quantity of crude and petroleum products to be imported;

(c) whether Government are considering to switch from the import of Petroleum products to crude; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (d). To meet the peak demands during the current rabi season, an additional foreign exchange allocation of Rs. 18 crores for import of crude oil and petroleum products over the ceiling fixed for the year 1974-75 has been made. Keeping in view the prevailing high prices of refined petroleum products in the world market, it is proposed to utilise this amount for the import of about 276,000 tonnes of crude oil.

#### Agreement with Japan to provide aid for fertilizer plant at Panipat

\*400. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has agreed to provide aid for fertilizer plant to be set up at Panipat; and

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). A credit assistance of 32.9 billion Yen has been extended by