

Japan towards meeting the foreign exchange cost of three fertilizer projects to be set up in the North-Western Region, namely, at Bhatinda, Panipat and Mathura. Out of this credit assistance to the tune of 11 billion Yen has been made available for the Bhatinda project, which has been taken up for implementation. The loan agreement for the Panipat project has not yet been entered into.

Working of Cochin Refineries

*401. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have inquired into the working of Cochin Refineries Limited, Ernakulam (Cochin) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the nature of irregularities found by Government; and

(c) steps taken by Government to remove the draw-backs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) No, Sir.

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

Supply of Diesel Oil to States

*402. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) in view of shortage of diesel oil for agricultural operations, what steps Government propose to take to supply required diesel oil to the States; and

(b) what are the requirements of diesel oil by each State?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALA-

VIYA): (a): There have been no reports in the recent past of any general shortage of HSD or LDO in the country. State Governments have already been requested to ensure availability of HSD/LDO for agricultural purposes on priority, if necessary through a system of issuing diesel allocation cards to the agriculturists.

(b) Diesel oil requirements are not worked out on a statewide basis. All efforts are however being made to provide adequate availability of diesel oil to meet the normal demands in states, particularly for the agricultural sector, in full. There have also been no restrictions so far in the retail sale of diesel oil by the oil companies retail outlets

Cut in quota of Kerosene for States

403. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any cut in the quota allotted to the States during last four months so far as the supply of kerosene is concerned; and

(b) if so, the extent of the cut in quantity, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir, During August, 1974 there was a uniform cut of 30 per cent for all the States. During September and October, 1974 States having consumption of less than 500 MTs per annum were not subjected to any cut, in respect of other States, the cut varied between 10 per cent to 25 per cent. In the month of November, the extent of cut was reduced to an average of 10 per cent leaving the quotas of the States consuming less than 500 CMTs, per annum intact.

(b) A statement showing the cut made in the month of November is placed on the Table of the House.