

**Decision of O.P.E.C. at Paris Meeting
on Oil Prices**

*294. **SHRI RAJA KULKARNI:** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM** be pleased to state the reactions of Government to the decision of the Paris Meeting of the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries and of Oil consuming countries on the question of dual oil price system thereby giving concession in prices to developing countries in lieu of aid through loans and credits?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Government are not aware of such a decision.

**Redistribution Stockists of Hindustan
Lever Limited**

*295: **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of **LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received several complaints regarding the use of middle-men called Redistribution Stockists by Hindustan Lever Limited on an exclusive basis to inflate the prices of their products;

(b) whether the Company has openly declared not to supply its products directly to any dealers other than fixed middle-men;

(c) whether dealers are willing to lift stocks straight from the Company's godowns; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to check this Company from indulging in such mal-practices?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) Government have received some complaints against the

arrangement of appointing "Redistribution Stockists" adopted by the company.

(b) and (c). Government has no information about the matter, referred to.

(d) The practice of the company of appointing "Redistribution Stockists" was the subject-matter of a restrictive trade practice inquiry instituted against it by the M.R.T.P. Commission which passed orders on 17-3-1976 restraining the company from continuing to indulge *inter alia* in the restrictive trade practice of territorial restriction. The company has, however, filed an appeal against the Commission's order and the matter is pending before the Supreme Court.

**Appointment of New Indane Gas
Dealers**

*296. **SHRI RAM PRAKASH:** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of Indane Gas distributors in the country;

(b) the number of distributors at present; and

(c) the number of war widows, Harijans and unemployed engineers who have been allotted dealerships agencies for Indane Gas under the new distribution system during the year 1975-76?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to increase the number of Indane distributorships subject to availability of packed LPG in the country.

(b) As on 31-3-1976, there were 367 Indane distributors all over the country.