

Japan	499.92	1103.99
U.S.A.(New York, India (Bombay))	Not available	718.88
	470.20	1024.59

(c) and (d). In a refinery, it is not possible to calculate the cost of production of each product as they are jointly produced in the refining operations and the relative yield of the products produced varies from time to time and from refinery to refinery depending upon several factors. The selling prices of petroleum products are fixed in India on the basis of the recommendations of the oil pricing committees appointed from time to time. Currently, these prices are based on the recommendations of the Oil Prices Committee.

The reason for the higher selling prices of certain products in India is the higher rate of excise duties levied in India as compared to the countries concerned. In view of the increase in the cost of imported crude, there is no scope for reduction in the prices of petroleum products.

#### **Acute scarcity of drinking Water In Calcutta and its Surrounding Areas**

\*1639. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute scarcity of drinking water in Calcutta and surrounding areas at present;

(b) whether the water supply system is on the verge of breakdown; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to solve this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS & HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shortage of drinking water in Calcutta Metropolitan District Area exists but the system is not on the verge of breakdown.

(c) 19 schemes costing Rs. 44.27 crores for the supply of water in Calcutta Metropolitan District Area have been approved and an outlay of Rs. 28.81 crores for these schemes has been provided during the Fourth Plan period. Two of these schemes have been completed and the others are in different stages of implementation. During the current year, some additional schemes are also under contemplation to provide greater relief.

#### **Incidence of Leprosy in West Bengal**

\*1640. DR. SARADISH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether leprosy is sharply rising in West Bengal mainly in the Districts like Burdwan, Purulia, Birbhum and Bankura;

(b) if so, the number of leprosy patients in West Bengal during the years 1969-70, 1971, district-wise;

(c) whether there are adequate arrangements for the treatment of these patients in hospitals; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent the spreading of leprosy in other States ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS & HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) No, Sir. There is no evidence to show that there is a rise in the prevalence of leprosy in West Bengal particularly in Burdwan, Purulia, Birbhum and Bankura districts.