

petroleum products from the refineries at Barauni, Koyali, Gauhati and Digboi ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ; and

(c) whether it has in any way benefited the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : (a) to (c). With effect from 1.6.1970, the inland refineries at Barauni, Koyali and Gauhati have been declared as pricing points in addition to the 8 main ports and Digboi Refinery. The extent of the benefit to the consumers by way of reduction in prices since June 1970 within the pricing areas of these refineries in respect of the major petroleum products is as follows :

(Rs./KL)			
Name of Petro- leum Products	Koyali	Barauni	Gauhati
Motor Spirit High Speed	... 54.20	61.71	7.97
Diesel Oil	... 35.24	47.04	45.85
Light Diesel			
Oil	... 38.86	52.39	50.97
Furnace Oil Superior	... 28.11	43.09	41.52
Kerosene	... 33.67	42.31	9.01

Increase in Price of Gas

*172. SHRI N. S. BISHT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the price of gas ;

(b) if so, the extent of the proposed increase ; and

(c) the reaction of the consumers thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). As producer and seller of the gas it is the Oil and Natural Gas Commission that determine the price. The Commission have proposed an increase in the price of Ankleshwar and Cambay gas with effect from 1.4.1971. This revision has been worked out by them on the basis of the formula laid down in the Arbitration Award of Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao. It is this award that has governed the price for the five year period ending 31.3.1971. The Award provided for the revision of the price for the next period of five years effective from 1.4.1971. According to ONGC's computation, the well-head price will increase from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 80/- per 1000 cubic metres of gas and to this would be added a premium of Rs. 26/- to recoup the under-recoveries on well-head price for the past supplies bringing the revised well-head price to Rs. 106 per 1000 cubic metres. In addition there will be charges on account of royalty and sales tax and on account of transportation where also a premium will be added to recoup past under-recoveries and this will differ from consumer to consumer.

(c) The consumers have opposed the price increase but discussion between them and the ONGC are proceeding with a view to settling the matter amicably.

Posting of New Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan in Calcutta

*173. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan Government have deputed a new Deputy High Commissioner in Calcutta recently ;

(b) if so, whether he has opened his office in Calcutta ;

(c) whether his personal and office expenses are being borne by Government of India ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?