

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Kurmadanga on A. K. Light Railway, is a contractor operated halt and the proposal for its conversion into a flag station, is under examination.

**Request from Rajasthan Government for location of a Fertilizer Plant in Rajasthan**

\*469. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge deposits of Pyrites are available at Saladipura in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government of Rajasthan have requested the Central Government for the location of a Fertilizer plant in the public sector in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Working Group set up by Government indicated the possibility of establishing a fertilizer complex in Rajasthan. The decision in this regard will be taken on receipt of firm data on the economic availability of the basic raw materials like pyrites and rock phosphate and essential utilities regarding which studies are under way. While feasibility report on Saladipura pyrites deposits prepared by M/s. R.T.Z. has been received the World Bank feasibility report on rock phosphate is being examined by the Union Department of Mines in consultation with the Rajasthan Government.

**Fourth Rise in Prices of Crude Oil allowed to Foreign Oil Companies**

\*470. SHRI D. K. PANDA:  
SHRI ATAL BIHARI  
VAJPAYEE:

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

(a) whether the foreign oil firms have lately been allowed a rise in crude prices for the fourth time in six months;

(b) if so, the extent of increase allowed and total increase in crude prices during the last six months to the foreign oil companies;

(c) the reasons for granting such increases; and

(d) how these increases have affected and are likely to affect the prices of different petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b). The increase in FOB prices claimed by foreign oil companies since 1-1-1973 has been of the order of 0.704/bbl dollar in the case of Light Iranian crude and 0.502/bbl dollar in the case of Arabian Mix. Foreign exchange has been released for the import of crude oil at the enhanced prices during 1973.

(c) Crude oil prices have been going up continually since November 1970. A sellers' market prevails. Crude oil, therefore, cannot be presently bought at lower prices. Like all other countries, India has to buy crude oil in the world market at prevailing prices.

(d) The prices of bulk refined petroleum products are linked to the price of Light Iranian Crude Oil. The O.P.C. recommended that the FOB prices of bulk refined petroleum products should be increased by 4 per cent for every 10 cents/bbl increase in the price of Light Iranian crude oil. Accordingly in June, 1973, the FOB