

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

prices of all bulk refined petroleum products were increased to correspond to the crude oil price of 1.88/bbl dollars. Subsequently, as the prices of crude oil further increased, a further increase in the prices of selected petroleum products has been allowed with effect from 22-8-1973 to correspond to the crude oil price of 2.38/bbl. The increase made in the prices of selected petroleum products are as follows:—

Product	
Motor Spirit 93	Rs. 99.77 per Kl.
Motor Spirit 83	Rs. 98.00 per Kl.
Packed Bitumen (all grades)	Rs. 50.00 per MT
Lubricants/ Greases	Rs. 400.00 per MT (exclusive duty)
Naphtha	Rs. 60.00 per MT

Constitution of Autonomous Boards for Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Protection Schemes over the Entire Length of Inter-State Rivers

471. **SRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether autonomous boards responsible for irrigation, drainage and flood protection schemes over the entire length of inter-wise rivers have not been constituted so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to constitute River Boards as envisaged in the River Board Act?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) to (c). The River Boards Act, 1956 no Board could not be constituted in practice, however, that these State rivers or river valleys. It envisages the regulation or development of inter-State rivers or river valleys. It envisages the formation of River Boards as advisory bodies to advise the Central and State Governments on the regulation or development of inter-State rivers or river valleys. It envisages the formation of River Boards as advisory bodies to advise the Central and State Governments on the regulation or development of inter-State rivers or river valleys. It envisages the formation of River Boards as advisory bodies to advise the Central and State Governments on the regulation or development of inter-State rivers or river valleys.

As a result of the increasing use of water resources of the country and the programmes of larger utilisation, the future need has been recognised for constituting of high powered National Water Resources Council to evolve a national water policy and to make a continuous appraisal of the needs for water and most beneficial and equitable allocation of available water for different uses in the interest of the country as a whole.

Amendments to some provisions in the Constitution have been considered necessary so as to reflect the concept of water as a national asset. Proposals for these amendments are being worked out.

पूर्वी रेलवे के पटना सिटी (मारुफ गंज) स्थित पटनाघाट माल चढ़ाई/उतराई स्टेशन को बन्द करना

* 474 श्री रामावतार शास्त्री: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पूर्वी रेलवे के अधिकारियों ने पटना सिटी (मारुफगंज) स्थित पटनाघाट माल चढ़ाई उतराई स्टेशन को बन्द कर देने का निणय किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं; और

(ग) क्या इसके फलस्वरूप वहां काम करने वाले हजारों श्रमिक बेरोजगार हो जायेंगे?

रेलवे मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी) : (क) ऐसा निणय नहीं किया गया है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।