

India due to the recent war between Israel and Egypt; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BO-ROOAH): (a) and (b). The use of oil by the Arab world is a deliberate act to bring pressure on countries who have supported Israel and have been unfriendly to the Arabs in their just struggle for asserting their legitimate rights and liberating their territory occupied by Israeli aggression. Government have been assured that the supply of crude oil to India will not be affected on this account. However, the companies importing crude oil into India have informed Government that if there is any reduction in their overall availability they would have to strictly prorate their supplies to the various countries but they would do their best to avoid any cut. They would also not carry crude to any banned country. The extent of reduction cannot be precisely estimated at present. The Oil Companies have further assured that no part of their supplies would be diverted to the countries on the "banned list".

Scheme to Attract Private Investment for setting up Fuel Based Fertilizer Units

*29. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised any scheme designed to attract new private investment for setting up fertilizer units based on fuel oil; and

(b) if so, the nature of incentives proposed to be offered to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNA-WAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The general question of providing suitable incentives to speed up flow of fresh investment into the fertilizer industry is

under consideration with due regard to Government policy about choice of fertilizer feedstock. This involves several issues, which need to be dealt with on an integrated basis. Meanwhile, Government have decided to exempt fuel oil from excise duty when used as feedstock for fertilizer production.

Installation of Kerosene Oil Distribution Pumps in Delhi and other Metropolitan Cities

*37. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to instal Kerosene Oil distribution pumps in various parts of Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such pumps proposed to be installed in the Union Territory of Delhi; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend this facility to other Metropolitan cities in the country as well?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BO-ROOAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). One such pump was set up in Delhi on 11th October, 1973, to provide an improved mode of dispensing Kerosene for the public convenience. With the near equalisation of Kerosene-Oil price with that of High Speed Diesel Oil, it is proposed to introduce the sale of Kerosene Oil from the Oil Companies' existing retail outlets situated at convenient locations. The exact number of retail outlets, and separate dealers' premises, where dispensing of Kerosene can be started through separate pumps is at present under examination by the oil companies. It is proposed to start this scheme on an experimental basis by the end of the current month. Once the public reaction to this scheme is ascertained, it will be extended to the other Metropolitan cities and retail outlets situated in the rural areas.