

tions, who supplement the Railways' Vigilance work.

Consumption of Petrol and Petroleum Products

226. SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VARMA:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

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

(a) whether Government have taken various steps with a view to reducing consumption of petrol and petroleum products.

(b) if so, whether Government have made any estimate of the annual consumption of petrol and petroleum products in Public and private sector in the country;

(c) if so, the quantity of petrol and petroleum products consumed in public and private sector, separately during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the quantity estimated to be consumed in these sectors separately during the current year; and

(e) the quantity of petrol and other petroleum products saved so far, product-wise and sector-wise during the current year as a result of steps taken by Government to reduce the consumption of petrol and petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Data regarding consumption of petrol and petroleum product is in public and private sectors, separately is not available.

(e) It is too early to assess the impact of

the different measures for containment of demand which were announced on 21st June 1990.

Price of Cement

227. SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VERMA:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had advised the cement manufacturers in April-May, 1990 to lower the prices of cement;

(b) if so, whether the rates of cement have come down in various parts of the country during the months of June-July;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have issued special instructions to those cement producing units which are not utilising their full capacity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the drastic steps proposed to be taken by Government to provide cement at fair prices in future?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). At most consumption centres in the country, particularly in the Western and Northern Regions, there was a fall in cement prices during May and early June.

(d) and (e). Increased efforts are being made to provide infrastructural support to the Cement Industry in the form of adequate supply of Coal and Rail Wagons in order to ensure optimum production and to make maximum cement available in the market. Constant monitoring is being done to facili-

tate the same. There is no statutory control over pricing and distribution of cement. However, the State Government have been advised to keep a close watch on the dealers so that they do not indulge in profiteering at the retail level. The State Government have also been requested to consider buying cement in bulk and to ensure equitable retail distribution.

[English]

Setting Up of Thermal Power Station at Dahanu in Maharashtra

228. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Company had started work on a 500 WM Thermal power station at Dahanu in Maharashtra;

(b) whether a work stop order was issued by Union Government despite clearance for the project from concerned agencies including environmental groups;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider the whole matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Company has proposed to instal 2 x 250 MW Thermal Power Station at Dahanu in Maharashtra. The project was accorded environmental clearance in March, 1989 subject to certain conditions.

(b) and (c). The Bombay Environmental Action Group and Dahanu Taluka Environmental Protection Group have filed writ petitions in Bombay High Court against the setting up of this project at Dahanu in Sep-

tember, 1989 and January, 1990 respectively. Subsequently in January, 1990 and later, representations were received from the Environmental Groups regarding the violation of the assurances given by the State Government to the Ministry of Environment and Forests. On 27.1.90, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had asked the Project authorities to stop construction activities till a decision is taken on the writ petitions. The Hon'ble High Courts while hearing writ petitions passed an interim order that the Government of India is free to proceed to consider representations made by the petitioners against the proposed thermal project.

(d) The issue raised in these representations have been examined in the Ministry of Environment and Forests who have come to the conclusion that the location of the proposed 500 MW thermal power plant at Dahanu is acceptable from environmental considerations.

Setting up of Gas Based Power Plants at Trombay

229. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has entrusted work to M/s. Tata Electric Company to set up a gas based combined cycle power plant of 180 M.W. capacity at Trombay;

(b) whether Union Government has given approval for the project to help Maharashtra Government in tiding over its power shortage; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The proposal submitted by M/s. Tata Electric Com-