

(e) whether the customers already registered with the said agency can have their gas connection transferred to any other agency under Indian Oil or Hindustan Petroleum etc. and what is the procedure therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir. One complaint during the last six months received in this regard on enquiry was not substantiated.

(b) No, Sir. No such complaints have been received by the oil company.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) As per the delinking scheme, an LPG consumer can choose a distributor of his choice. The scheme is introduced in a phased manner in metropolitan cities, State capitals and towns having population of 2 lakhs and above. In Bhiwani the delinking scheme has not been introduced so far.

Wrong Electricity Bills by DESU for R.K. Puram and Vasant Vihar Areas

1451. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that DESU has recently sent wrong electricity bills in respect of the consumers in R. K. Puram and Vasant Vihar areas;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the officials of DESU have adopted this method to harass the consumers and to extort money from them;

(c) whether any action is being taken against those officials who send wrong bills to the consumers and if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what action is being taken to streamline the working of the DESU and to weed out the corrupt and inefficient officials from the DESU?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of quality paper

1452. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the present shortage of quality paper in the country resulting in sudden rise in its prices; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to meet this shortage and check the rising prices?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) In general, there has been no report regarding shortage of writing and printing papers in the country. Various units in the Paper Industry produce different varieties of paper, as per the domestic demand. Industry sources have also indicated that the prices of writing and printing paper have been ruling stable for the last several months.

Requirement for Petroleum and Petroleum Products

1453. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: SHRI GUFRAN AZAM:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the requirements of petroleum and petroleum products in the country are steeply rising and domestic production is not going up in adequate measure; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to meet the oil crisis, and reduce import of these products?

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

(b) The gap between the demand and the indigenous production is presently being met through imports of crude oil and petroleum products. In order to increase the production of petroleum products, the refining capacity in the country is proposed to be increased by setting up new refineries and by taking up expansion/debottlenecking projects in some of the existing refineries. Steps are also being taken to increase crude oil production which, inter alia include intensification of exploration which may eventually lead to enhanced production, intensification of work-over operations and use of enhanced oil recovery techniques. The prices of selected petroleum products such as motor spirit and HSD have been recently revised upwards to contain the rate of growth in demand for petroleum products.

Import of crude oil during the year 1990

1454. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries from which Government are importing crude oil during the year 1990;

(b) what is the currency in which payment would be made;

(c) by when the above imported crude is likely to reach the country; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to lessen the import of crude?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) In the year 1989-90 we have term contracts for the import of crude oil with USSR, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, UAE and Kuwait. Term contracts for 1990-91 have not been finalised. With USSR, the term contract is on calendar year basis for 1990. In addition, spot purchases are made from producers/traders of crude oil all over the world except certain prohibited countries like South Africa and Israel.

(b) All payments are made in U.S. dollars except for imports from USSR where payments are made in Rupees.

(c) The imports are phased over the entire year to meet the demand and operational requirements of the refineries.

(d) Steps being taken to reduce imports of crude oil include (i) increase in crude oil production by intensification of exploration activities, intensification of work over operations and use of enhanced oil recovery techniques, (ii) increase in refining capacity, and (iii) effecting economy in the use of petroleum products by efforts towards increasing fuel efficiency in user sectors.

Recently the prices of some petroleum products such as Motor spirit and HSD were raised to contain the rate of growth of demand for these products.

Help extended by Airbus Consortium in the investigation of Airbus AB-320 crash

1455. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of experts from the European Airbus Consortium has come to India to help in the investigation of the crash of Indian Airlines Airbus AB-320 on the 14th February, 1990 at Bangalore airport; and

(b) if so, what kind of help was given by the above team?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Following the crash of A-320 aircraft at Bangalore, an accredited representative of French Investigation Bureau alongwith his technical advisers of Airbus Industries were in India to provide technical information on the A-320 aircraft required for investigation.