

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Usually it should take 2 to 3 days excluding Sundays and holidays on the days of posting and delivery. Further delay, if any, is attributed to late running of transport services which is beyond the control of this Department.

(d) No, Sir. However, it is possible that in very rare cases when some telegrams have to be necessarily despatched by post owing to prolonged interruptions to telecommunication links, they may reach the addressee only after a day or two.

New transfer policy of oil industry

1468. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "New transfer policy of Oil Industry" which appeared in the "Statesman" dated 11th April, 1983; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the new transfer policy and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect to the transferable officers and staff, transfers are generally to be effected if they have been posted in a particular location continuously for about 3 to 4 years unless there are certain over-riding considerations. The policy is designed to enable the officers and staff to gain wide and varied experience of the problems faced in different areas and at the same time to avoid the growth of any vested interests due to the retention of the personnel at the same location for too long a period.

Self-sufficiency in petro-goods

1469. SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government expect to attain self-sufficiency in petro-goods

by 1989-90 as reported in the Financial Express dated the 4th April, 1983 and if so, what are the reasons for such optimism in the light of our performance in the past;

(b) how long our national reserves are expected to last in the light of present anticipated growth; and

(c) whether Government propose to utilise alcohol for admixture with petrol instead of exporting alcohol and molasses which may not only be in national interests for the future but may also result in self-sufficiency earlier than 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) By 1989-90, the refining capacity in the country is expected to increase to about 62 million tonnes per annum, which would nearly meet the requirement of petroleum products in the country at that time.

(b) The quantity of recoverable oil, as assessed in 1982, based on the use of primary recovery techniques only, is expected to last approximately 22 years at the rate of production of about 21 million tonnes per annum. However, exploration is a continuing activity and with every new discovery and as a result of surveys, etc., new reserves keep accruing over time.

(c) Although the technological feasibility of blending ethyl alcohol with motor spirit has been proved the programme can be pursued only after assured adequate and steady availability of ethyl alcohol from domestic sources and economics thereof is established.

industrial alcohol

1470. SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industrial alcohol is to be exported as re-

ported in the "Economic Times" dated the 20th April, 1983 and if so, what are the details of the export strategy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the Government's earlier views production and use of alcohol as a petrol substitute was uneconomic as it consumed more energy in production than it provided;

(c) what is the price per litre at which alcohol is being exported;

(d) whether the requirements of alcohol for the existing industries have been fully met; and

(e) whether Government will also continue its policy of export of molasses instead of using it in the cattle feeds and for alcohol production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) After assessing the production and demand of molasses and alcohol at the last Central Molasse Board Meeting on 19-1-1983 the Government have allowed the permission given in the previous alcohol year for export of 100 lakh litres to stand. The permission was for export of 50 lakh litres of alcohol each from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh through State Trading Corporation.

(b) The prospects of the use of alcohol as an additive to petrol were gone into by a Committee of Technical Experts on alcohol and Alcohol-based Industries, which submitted its report in January, 1980. One of the conclusions of the Committee was that our present methods of producing alcohol from molasses required more energy than it provides when used as an automobile fuel in admixture with gasoline.

(c) A quantity of 8000 MT (4000 MT of UP origin and 4000 MT of Maharashtra origin) of alcohol released by the Government in 1982-83 to S.T.C. has been contracted for shipment upto May 1983 at the best available international prices ranging around US

dollar 0.2096 per litre FOB Indian Port.

(d) For various reasons, the alcohol based industries could not lift alcohol according to their requirement so far.

(e) The Central Molasses Board, in its meeting held on 19-1-1983, assessed inter alia, the surplus quantity of molasses likely to be available for export in the current alcohol year 1982-83 (December—November). Based on this it was decided to allow export of 4.75 lakh tonnes of molasses at present. A quantity of 1.61 lakh tonnes has been kept aside for livestock feed and fodder during the current alcohol year 1982-83 (November).

Supply of Additional LPG Cylinders in Delhi

1471. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 42 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st February, 1983 and state:

(a) what is the present position of the allotment of additional L.P.G. gas cylinders, to the consumers of Indane Gas in Delhi, agency-wise and

(b) by when the consumers will be given additional gas cylinders who registered their names with the respective agencies in Delhi during the month of January?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) Second Cylinders are being released to existing customers who have registered their names with Indane distributors for the same. Till 31st March, 1983, 88346 consumers have booked for second cylinders and against that 14,932 customers have been provided with second cylinders so far Agency-wise position is given in the Annexure.

(b) Oil companies have been advised to clear all applications for second cylinders as quickly as possible.