

(c) the estimated quantum of import and unit price;

(d) whether Government subsidise the cost of newsprint at any stage; if so, the extent thereof?

(e) whether it is a fact that big newspapers consume a disproportionately high share of newsprint and in some cases even more than the allotted quantity;

(f) whether Government are aware that there is a flourishing blackmarket in newsprint due to scarcity; and

(g) if so, whether Government would liberalise the import of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) 4.10 lakh Mts.

(b) The Ministry of Industry has assessed indigenous production in 1981-82 at 70,000 Mts., currently at Rs. 3,956 per Mt.

(c) 3.50 lakh Mts., currently at Rs. 4,651.66 CIF per Mt. for 48.8 GMS.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. About 70% of the total allocation is shared by the big newspapers. However, no newspaper is given more quantity than it is entitled to.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

1110. [Transferred to the 7th May, 1981].

Allotment of cooking gas agencies in Karaikal city of Pondicherry

1111. **SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is no Agency either in Private, Public or Co-operative sector for selling cooking gas in Karaikal in the Union Territory of Pondicherry; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to allot cooking gas agencies in Karaikal city?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The potential at Karaikal does not commercially justify for a cooking gas agency there at present.

Libyan offer for meeting full requirement of crude oil

1112. **SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:**
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Libya has offered to meet the full crude oil requirements of India;

(b) if so, what was the precise offer made by the Libyan Minister of Heavy Industry during his recent visit to New Delhi; and

(c) what is the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Petro-chemical complex and fertilizer plant in Madhya Pradesh

1113. **SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no petro-chemical complex and fertilizer plant in public sector in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.