

### Supply of Kerosene to Orissa

2221. SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a shortfall in the supply of kerosene to the state of Orissa in 1980-81;

(b) if so, what is the total allocation of kerosene oil to the State of Orissa in the last six months and the reasons for the shortfall in the supply; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the augmentation of kerosene oil quota to Orissa during 1981-82?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Between April, 1980 and January, 1981, the shortfall in the sales as against the allocations of kerosene in Orissa State was only about 7.8 per cent. The shortfall arose mainly in the months of April and May, 1980, due to low sales inspite of adequate availability of kerosene in the depots during that period.

(b) Between August, 1980 and January, 1981, the total allocations of kerosene to Orissa was 36,750 tonnes and the actual sales were 37,669 tonnes. There was no shortfall in the supply during this period.

(c) Allocation of kerosene for the year 1981-82 for Orissa will be decided on a monthly basis, taking into consideration the overall availability of the product, past allocation/consumption and the movement capacity.

### Improvement in the information system for reporting International events

2222. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that for reporting international events we are still to depend on foreign agencies; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to recast our information system in order to give a better account of such events to our people?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (MISS KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) Government are aware of the present position under which we are still largely dependent on foreign news agencies for reportage on international events;

(b) Government have taken the following steps:—

(i) The present strength of All India Radio's correspondents abroad—four full-time and seven part-time—is being increased. Besides, special correspondents are being deputed from India to cover major international developments/events;

(ii) Indian news agencies are being encouraged to post their correspondents abroad;

(iii) The Press Agencies Pool of Non-aligned Countries is being encouraged.