

(a) whether Government are aware that many M.R.T.P./Multinational companies are marketing the products manufactured by small-scale units and other Indian manufacturers under their own trade mark without permission of the Companies Law Board and the M.R.T.P. Commission in the guise of diversification; and

(b) If so, what action Government propose to take against such manufacturers to protect the interest of Indian manufacturers and help the growth of indigenous industries?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Government are aware that a few M.R.T.P./Multinational companies are marketing the products manufactured by other units under their own trade names. There is no provision under the Companies Act and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act requiring the permission of the Company Law Board/M.R.T.P. Commission for such purposes.

(b) Does not arise.

Delay in sanctioning gas from Bombay High for setting up petrochemical projects in Maharashtra

*170. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR
CHANDRAKANT
BHANDARE:

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

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in sanctioning the necessary quantum of gas from Bombay-High for the setting up of another 12 petrochemical projects in Maharashtra; and

(b) by when the required quantum of additional gas will be available to the State?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). It has been decided in principle to set up a Gas Cracker and associated downstream units in Maharashtra to utilise the gas from Bombay High. A Site Selection Committee has been constituted in May, 1980 to recommend a suitable site for the Gas Cracker. It is expected to submit its report in September, 1980. Action will be initiated to obtain investment approvals after the report is received.

Statutory control of some chemicals

*171. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
SINGH:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA
SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR:

SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM
CHANDRASEKHAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the reasons for not bringing important chemicals, like soda ash, caustic soda, boric acid, trisodium phosphate and other essential chemicals under 'statutory control' to stop blackmarketing and to bring down their prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): In general, basic chemicals are not price controlled and their prices are governed by the prices of their inputs like essential raw-materials, power and other utilities and cost of labour. The question of imposing price and distribution control on these items will have to be looked at from the point of view of improving availability at prices that would be fair to both the consumer and the producer. Government's approach has been to try to improve the availability of essential chemicals by liberalising imports in general and arranging for imports, wherever necessary, through State agencies in particular. Monitoring of