

### Establishment of media exchanges between India and China

\*15. SHRI HARI SHANKAR BHABHRA:

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese Government have extended an invitation to the two Indian News Agencies to visit Peking in order to explore possibilities of establishing media exchanges between the two countries;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter; and

(c) what are the names of the news agencies invited by China?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) Such an invitation has been received, but there is no specific suggestion about the subjects to be discussed.

(b) The Government of India have no objection in principle to their accepting the invitation.

(c) The names of the two agencies are Press Trust of India and United News of India.

### Award of pipelaying contracts to Dodsai (Private) Limited

\*16. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

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

(a) the total value of pipelaying contract given to Dodsai (Private) Limited in Salaya-Viramgram-Mathura pipelines project;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same company has been given new contracts for Mathura-Jullundur pipelines; and

(c) whether Government propose to promote a Pipelines Construction and Operation Corporation in the Public Sector; if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The total estimated value of the contract for the construction work of the Salaya-Viramgram-Koyali/Mathura pipelines Project, which was awarded to M/s. Dodsai Pvt. Ltd. on the basis of competitive tenders is Rs. 3926.50 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir. The tender for construction work of the Mathura-Delhi-Ambala-Jullundur product pipeline project were opened by M/s. Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd. on 12-5-80. The tenders are still under evaluation and no decision for award of work for the construction of this pipeline has yet been taken.

(c) There is no such proposal presently under the consideration of Government.

### Hydro-electric projects

\*17. SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER: Will the Minister of ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the hydro-electric projects which are pending clearance of the Central Government; and

(b) what measures have been taken by the Central Government to avoid delay for the clearance of the Silent Valley Project?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Names of the hydro projects pending sanction of the Central Government are at Annexure. [See Appendix CXIV, Annexure No. 2].

(b) In view of the serious reservations expressed by the environmentalists and ecologists all over the world at the possible destruction of Silent Valley forest, the Prime Minister had advised the State Government to stop further execution of the project work in order that the ecological aspects

be studied fully. The data collected by the scientific teams deputed to the Silent Valley forest from Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeo Botany etc. is being compiled and will be available shortly.

### Import of kerosene and diesel

\*18. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil blockade in Assam since January, 1980 has compelled the Government to import additional quantity of kerosene, diesel and fuel to the tune of 2,80,000 tonnes;

(b) whether in spite of the huge quantity of import of these items, the country is still facing shortage; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether many States have complained about the poor supply of kerosene, petrol and diesel; and

(d) if so, which States, have been affected and what steps are being taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) Additional imports of HSD and Kerosene to the extent of about one million tonnes have been made between January and May, 1980 over and above what was planned before the beginning of the calendar year for this period on a prorated basis. This additional import has been made due to, *inter-alia*, the shortfall in production in the three refineries in Assam and the Barauni refinery in Bihar.

(b) and (c) It is true that some States have represented about shortages, mainly of diesel and kerosene.

(d) In spite of adequate availability of these products at the coastal locations where imports are made, the movement of the products to the up-

country locations has been limited by the transportation constraints. However in view of a number of steps taken, availability of HSD and Kerosene has registered substantial improvement in the last three months or so. The steps taken are as follows:—

(i) Maximisation of import of diesel and kerosene so that there are no problems of availability of these products at the port locations.

(ii) Improving the rail movement of petroleum products by pressing into service more tank wagons, reducing the turn-around time of rail wagons, according higher priority to the movement of these wagons over goods and passenger services, setting up of a special cell in the Railway Board to monitor the tank wagon movement, etc.,

(iii) Maximisation of road movement of diesel and kerosene by the oil companies.

(iv) Advising the State Governments to ensure equitable distribution of diesel and kerosene under the Essential Commodities Act and the rules and orders framed thereunder, and also to invoke the provisions of the Prevention of Black marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act against those indulging in black marketing, hoardings, etc.

(v) Advising the oil companies to tighten up the supervision over their retail outlets.

### Baira Siul Hydro-electric Project

\*19. SHRI PILOO MODY:

SHRI R. R. MORARKA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first stage of the Baira Siul Hydro-electric Project has been completed;

(b) what was the original estimated cost of this project and what is the revised cost; and

(c) what is the amount of expenditure already incurred on the project?