

Effect of atmospheric pollution on the Taj and other monuments

97. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have conducted some tests to measure the effect of atmospheric pollution on the Taj and other monuments;

(b) if so, which agency conducted these tests and what is the outcome thereof; and

(c) what action is being taken on the basis of the data collected as a result of these tests?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) In July, 1974, Government had constituted an Expert Committee to advise *inter-alia* the Mathura Oil Refinery authorities on the measures to be taken for keeping the pollution effect to the absolute minimum. The Committee initiated various studies on this problem: The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagapur measured the existing air quality of Agra region. India Meteorological Department collected data on wind profiles including speed and direction and temperature humidity, etc., under different meteorological conditions. The Consultants of Indian Oil Corporation carried out studies on the conservation of Agra monuments including investigations covering physical, chemical, and biological analysis.

Some tests are also being carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India in collaboration with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay.

production of Bournvita by M/s. Cadbury (India) Ltd.

98. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Cadbury (India) Limited have restricted their production of Bournvita to the licensed capacity after the warning issued by his Ministry to the Company on the 23rd March, 1979; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for not taking legal action against the company including cancellation of their licence for violation of the provisions of the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI H. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

In their reply to the notice served by Government asking them to show cause why action should not be taken against them for violation of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, the Company have raised issues which need consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Law. Accordingly, these matters are being examined in consultation with that Ministry.

Import of crude oil and petroleum product

99. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of crude oil and petroleum products being imported during the current year;

(b) what is the additional foreign exchange required at the present prices as compared to the original provision; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to meet this additional cost?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) It is estimated

ihat the total imports of crude oil and petroleum products during the financial year 1979-80 would be of the following order: —

Crude Oil . 17 million ton

Petroleum Products 5.5 million ton

(b) As against the original estimates of Rs. 3067.90 crores of foreign exchange involved, the revised requirements of foreign exchange are likely to be of the order of Rs. 3712.11 crores.

(c) Presently the Oil Industry is incurring an estimated loss of nearly Rs. 4.5 crores per day from 1.1.1980 and the increased burden is being made good by drawing loans from Commercial Banks with the sanction of Reserve Bank of India. The additional burden on the economy is very heavy.

Scheme to reduce consumption of petrol

100. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the uncertain availability of crude oil, Government have formulated any scheme to reduce the consumption of petrol by (i) Government offices, (ii) affluent people, and (iii) the general public;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase production of petroleum and explore new sources of energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) The attention of the Union Ministries/Departments and the State Governments /Union Territory Administration has been drawn to the steep increase in the consumption of petrol and they

have been requested to take necessary steps for achieving a saving of 15 per cent in the consumption of petrol during 1979-80 over that of 1978-79 in respect of the departments, public sector undertakings, etc., coming within their control. In the case of others, reduction in the consumption of motor spirit (petrol) is expected to be achieved mainly through price increases.

(c) All efforts are being made to maximise availability of indigenous crude oil. Besides, the question of blending alcohol with petrol is also being actively pursued. The Department of Science and Technology is implementing plans for exploring alternative sources of energy.

Increase in the prices of petroleum products

101. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to increase the prices of petrol and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government also propose to curb the consumption of petroleum products for non-essential purposes and also propose to ration petrol; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Successive and steep increases in the prices of imported crude oil and petroleum products from the last quarter of 197* has led to a phenomenal increase in the import bill. Increases in the domestic prices of petroleum products are not ruled out.

(b) It is not in the public interest to divulge any details at this stage.