

(c) Due to the transport bottlenecks and the writ petitions filed by the sugar producers there was some delay in lifting the sugar from the factories which caused some shortage of sugar in the fair price shops. The lifting, of late, has picked up and sugar is being rushed to various State Governments for their public distribution system.

(d) The State Governments have been asked to take necessary action against the hoarders and black-marketeers under the Preventive Detention Act and other powers delegated to them.

(e) and (f) In view of above there is no need to conduct any enquiry regarding rise in the prices of sugar. A number of steps have been taken to check the rise in the prices of sugar such as the monitoring of sugar prices on day-to-day basis by the Central and the State Governments, reduction of stocks holding limits of the licensed sugar dealers by 50 per cent, streamlining the movement of sugar from the factories, increase in the transport charges for road movement upto the Rail head allowed to the sugar mills, visit of high level teams to Maharashtra, U.P., etc., to sort operational problems, revalidating all the Lapsed quotas of levy sugar, removal of restrictions on the movement of khand-sari from U.P. to other States and instructing the State Governments to take energetic steps against hoarders etc.

Manufacture of high grade aviation fuel

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

(a) whether Government are considering domestic manufacture of high grade aviation fuel "106 octane" in view of its world wide shortage;

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be reviewed;

(c) whether the proposal was dropped some years ago in view of the comfortable supply position then; and

(d) how long the shortage of aviation fuel is likely to continue?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The proposal for manufacturing 100 Octane Aviation Gasolene in the country is now being examined by an Inter-Ministerial Committee.

(b) A final view is expected to be taken in the next few months.

(c) The proposal for indigenous manufacture of aviation gasolene was considered in the past but not pursued because of a number of reasons like decreasing demand of the product in the country, inadequate availability of suitable raw material at one location and the easy availability of this product in the international market.

(d) There is no longer any shortage of this product.

Telephone facilities in Andhra Pradesh

93. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the district towns in Andhra Pradesh have been linked with the State Capital with telephone services; and

(b) if not, what are the names of the towns which are required to be linked with this facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Yes, Sir. All district headquarters are linked with the State Capital.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation of diesel and kerosene oil to Andhra Pradesh

94. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of PETRO-