

(a) whether it is a fact that production in the Barauni Fertilizer Factory has stopped since 24th January, 1980;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; the loss incurred on that account; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to resume production in the factory?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Barauni Fertilizer factory was shut down on 24-1-80 due to stock out of naphtha resulting from the closure of the Barauni refinery on account of disturbances in Assam. The factory was restarted on 15th February, 1980, when some naphtha was supplied by the IOC from Haldia. The plant was again shut down on 5-3-1980 on account of stock out of furnace oil. The plant remains closed since then. The production in the factory can be resumed as soon as the supply of naphtha and furnace oil is resumed. The estimated loss of production on account of the closure of this plant between 24-1-80 and 14-2-80 and 5-3-80 to 12-3-80 is 19500 tonnes of urea.

Scheme for crop insurance

498. **SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to evolve a scheme for crop insurance;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the proposed scheme; and

(c) by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c) The General Insurance Corporation of India had, at the instance of the Government of India, evolved a Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme which is now being implemented in the States of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West

Bengal. This scheme is based on a homogeneous area approach, all farmers paying premium and receiving indemnity at a uniform rate within this homogeneous area. The premium and indemnity are determined on the basis of average production over preceding ten years based on crop cutting samples. The maximum amount of insurance is limited to Rs. 2,000 per farmer and the policy is issued, in general, in favour of the credit institution. The State Governments are co-insurers sharing claims and premia to the extent of 25%. The rate of premium is generally 5% and is in some areas from 5% to 10%. The implementation of the scheme is being reviewed by the GIC and the Government of India. Modifications will be evolved on the basis of this review.

The GIC had prepared premium and indemnity tables for 12 other States. The introduction of Crop Insurance in these States is under discussion with the respective State Governments.

Supply of diesel to Rajasthan

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the short supply of diesel in Rajasthan has adversely affected agricultural production in that State;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) During the period December, 1979 to February, 1980, the sales of high speed diesel oil in Rajasthan were about 10.5% more than the sales during the corresponding period of the previous year. The State Government was also advised repeatedly to ensure that the needs of agriculture for diesel were met on a priority basis.

Inspite of these measures, however, it is possible that agriculturists in some parts of the State have not received their full requirements of HSD for the rabi crop. It is, however, not possible to assess the adverse effect that this has had on the agricultural production in that State.

(b) Shortage of diesel within the country including Rajasthan has been felt mainly because of the following factors:—

(i) Demand for diesel has gone up steeply on account of short-fall in power generation, large-scale movement of bulk goods by road instead of rail and recent drought conditions in several parts of the country.

(ii) The disruptions of supplies from Assam has further aggravated the situation as the monthly loss of production due to closure of the three refineries in Assam and Barauni refinery in Bihar is about 150,000 tonnes. Though alternative arrangements have been made to the extent possible, it has not been possible to make up fully the shortfall in supplies in High Speed Diesel in the areas fed by the refineries due to logistic constraints.

(c) Government have taken the following steps to remedy the situation:—

(i) Maximisation of import of diesel so that there is no problem of availability of this product at the port locations.

(ii) Improving the rail movements of diesel 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 wagons movement, etc.

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

(iv) Adequate product is being positioned at Kandla and Sabarmati from where the supplies to Rajasthan are being made.

(v) Advising the State Government to give top priority to the agricultural requirements of diesel and to ensure adequate availability of diesel in the rural and remote areas.

(vi) Advising the State Governments to regulate the distribution of diesel 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, hoarding etc.

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

Affidavit filed by Shri Gauri Shankar regarding distribution of paper allotted to Delhi Administration

500. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state what action the Lt. Governor, Delhi has taken on the basis of the affidavit filed by one Shri Gauri Shankar Gupta, General Secretary of Laghu Udyog Copy Nirmata Sangh demanding judicial enquiry into the scandal of distribution of the paper allotted to the Delhi Administration?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): The Lt. Governor, Delhi who conducted an inquiry in 1979 into the allegations, in so far as they related to the C.E.C., concluded that these were not substantiated as such from the record. During the examination of the record, certain irregularities in the matter of distribution of paper on the part of some departmental officers came to the notice of the Lt. Governor which were separately referred to Chief Secretary, for necessary action.