

terminated by the Delhi Development Authority. It has reported that no specific case of middlemen playing an active role in the allotment of its flats has come to its notice.]

521. [Transferred to the 27th March, 1980.]

Sugar mills in U. P. facing closure

522. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar factories in Western U.P. are closing down one by one much ahead of the normal date of termination of crushing season because of serious shortage of cane supply; despite fields adjoining mills being full of sugarcane;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of the 23 mills, 10 have already closed down and the remaining 13 are facing closure;

(c) whether there is a keen competition with Khandsari and khada kolhus which are purchasing sugarcane at a higher price; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to curtail the competition in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) According to the latest reports, 14 of the 23 sugar mills in Western U.P. have closed down upto 13th March, 1980. The remaining mills are also reported to be facing acute shortage of cane supplies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government has been advised to utilise all powers to made adequate quantities of sugarcane available to sugar factories. They have also been asked to ensure strict enforcement of penalties for non-supply of bonded cane to the factories and also announce Government's decision to fix bonding of cane for future years on the basis of current year's performance.

Indo-Soviet pact for the import of kerosene and diesel

523. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indo-Soviet pact has been signed by the Indian Oil Corporation on the 29th February, 1980 at New Delhi, for the import of kerosene and diesel oil; and

(b) if so, what are the details of these import and the terms of the pact?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir, a contract was signed between the Indian Oil Corporation and SOJUZNEFTE EXPORT (SNE) of Soviet Union on 29th February, 1980.

(b) The contract provides for the supply of 0.9 million tonnes of Kerosene and 0.8 million tonnes of HSD, (High Speed Diesel Oil) during 1980. It would not be in the commercial interest of India's Oil Corporation as also contrary to international practices to disclose further details.

Justice Shri E. S. Venkatramiah's views on children's problems

524. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by Justice Shri E. S. Venkatramiah at a Conference on 23rd February, 1980 at Delhi to mark the closing of the International Year of the Child, urging for a comprehensive code for children's problems like illiteracy; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The Ministry has taken note of the statement made by Justice E. S.