

(b) (i) Government have permitted the import of Soda Ash by actual users and have also reduced the customs duty from 75 per cent to 5 per cent in the case of dense and 35 per cent in the case of light soda ash.

(ii) Government have arranged to distribute around 1,000 tonnes of Soda Ash every month through the network of National Consumers Cooperatives Federation for allotment to washermen and launderers.

(iii) Government have arranged for the import by State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd. of 19,100 tonnes of Soda Ash which have been made available at a reasonable price to the State Governments for allotment to small-scale units.

(c) The Government is not at present contemplating control of the distribution of Soda Ash under the Essential Commodities Act. However, the distribution will be regulated as at present through guidelines issued to the manufacturers.

Unlicensed Radio Transmitter at Amritsar

†*60A. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:
SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an unlicensed radio transmitter has been operating at Amritsar in Punjab;

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

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard?

†Previously Starred Question 12, transferred from the 28th January, 1980.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) Yes, please.

(b) The transmitter was located in the Golden Temple, Amritsar. Mobile monitoring in the vicinity of the Golden Temple confirmed 'Shabad-Kirtan' broadcasts for short periods during the second fortnight of November, 1979. The range of the transmitter was less than 200 meters. From the first week of December, 79, however, transmissions could not be picked up, indicating that the transmitter had ceased to operate.

(c) The attention of the Punjab State Government was drawn to this fact with a request for taking appropriate action.

Increase in price of petrol, kerosene and diesel

36. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of petrol, kerosene and diesel have been increased since August, 1979; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the increase and to what extent the increases were attributable to increase in the import prices of crude?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) A statement showing the increases/decreases in the basic prices of Petroleum Products effected from 17-8-1979/11-9-79 is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Vide answer to Starred Question 46(a) at cols. 33-34 *Supra*].

(b) About two-thirds of our requirements of crude oil and finished Petroleum Products are still met from imported sources. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) announced quarterly increases in crude prices for 1979; which were revised later and made very

steep causing an additional burden of about Rs. 1150 crores per annum, which included about Rs. 50 crores towards higher domestic burdens. Out of Rs. 1150 crores, Rs. 280 crores per annum was realised by reduction in excise duties and the balance of Rs. 870 crores was passed on the consumers by way of price increases.

Government employees in possession of quarters one type below their entitlement

37. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government employees having quarters one type below their entitlement cannot be given change in the same type;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government employees in possession of quarters one type below are not provided with their entitled type at the time of surrendering the accommodation required for demolition by the Directorate of Estates; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to provide the entitled type of accommodation to the Government employees having one type below quarter when they shifted to the newly constructed quarters; if not, what are reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) Change is permissible only in the type of accommodation in occupation of a Government servant and not in a higher type.

(b) When the accommodation is required to be surrendered for demolition, the alternative accommodation is provided in the type of a house in occupation of a Government servant. Allotment is not given in the entitled type till the date of priority of the individual officer for his entitled type

of accommodation is covered in his turn.

(c) There is no proposal to provide accommodation in the entitled type to such Government officers who are occupying accommodation in one type below unless their date of priority is covered, as it will jeopardise the claims of the employees who are senior on the waiting list according to their dates of priority.

Requirement of crude during 1980-81

38. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated requirement of crude for the country during the years 1980-81;

(b) whether arrangements have been finalized for adequate import of crude from world market; and

(c) what steps have been taken for distribution and supply of petroleum products especially kerosene to the public at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) Crude oil requirements during the financial year 1980-81 are expected to aggregate to approximately 29.1 million tonnes.

(b) No difficulties are envisaged in the import of our full anticipated re-