

mind of the Government and this is what is being looked into.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage of Paraffin Wax

- *304. SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMO DARA MENON:
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of paraffin wax in the country as a result of which wax and wax products are sold at exorbitant prices; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check the rising trend in the prices of these products and to ensure their uninterrupted supply to actual users?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of House.

Statement

Shortage of Paraffin Wax

(a) and (b) Digboi Refinery of Assam Oil Company Limited is the main source for production of paraffin wax in the country. As the demand for paraffin wax has been increasing, exports of paraffin wax which were taking place till 1976 have now been stopped, with the objective of augmenting the availability of paraffin wax for meeting the domestic demand.

With a view to further supplement indigenous availability, the Import policy for 1977-78 has been amended

to provide for canalised imports of paraffin wax by actual users.

Studies are presently under way by Madras Refineries Limited and Indian Oil Corporation for the manufacture of paraffin wax in the Madras and Barauni Refineries.

The supply, distribution and prices of paraffin wax are controlled statutorily under the Paraffin Wax (Supply, Distribution and Price Fixation Order) 1972 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Until the capacity for manufacture of paraffin wax in the country is increased by the setting up of the proposed unit in Madras or Barauni, it is hoped that canalised imports of paraffin wax would lead to elimination of shortages and improve the availability of paraffin wax to actual users.

Demands of the railway employees at the time of Railway strike in 1974

- *305. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:
SHRI GULABRAO PATIL:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) which of the demands made by the various Unions of the railway employees at the time of railway strike in 1974 were accepted by Government before the 24th March, 1977; and

(b) which of the remaining demands have been accepted or rejected by Government after that date?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) During the negotiations prior to May 1974 strike, a common ground on the following points was being

evolved, though no formal agreement was concluded:—

(i) Implementation of Miabhoy's Award in toto.

(ii) Cadre review and upgradation of Class III and Class IV Staff.

(iii) Job Evaluation within the framework of the Pay Commission's recommendations.

(iv) Appointment of a Committee to go into anomalies arising as a result of Pay Commission's recommendations.

(v) Certain policies with regard to employment of casual labour.

(vi) Opening of fair-price shops in railway colonies housing more than 300 families.

(b) After the May 1974 Strike there was no progress on the remaining demands.

Laying of Pipelines from Bombay High to Trombay

*306. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO :
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this Project Investment Board has decided of lay oil and gas pipe lines from Bombay High to Trombay via Uran;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report to the effect that natural gas worth about 15 to 20 crores of rupees will have to be burnt away every year if this decision is implemented; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

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THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c) While such a report has appeared in a section of the press the facts are as follows:

The Government have approved the proposal to lay oil and gas pipelines from Bombay High field to Trombay via Uran where a shore terminal would be set up. The gas pipe line would help utilise the Bombay High gas which would otherwise have to be flared. It is not, therefore, correct to say that the PIB's recommendations would lead to the flaring of the gas worth Rs. 15 crores to Rs. 20 crores. Rather, when the gas pipeline is laid, it would help save and utilise gas worth Rs. 22 crores during 1978-79. The decision regarding the laying of the gas pipeline from Bombay High to Trombay via North Bassein and Uran, has been taken after a series of inter-ministerial meetings and in consultation with the State Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra. The cost of these pipelines will be about Rs. 219 crores and the pipelines are expected to be laid by May, 1978. Taking note of the needs of the State of Gujarat, Government are committed to transporting free gas from South Bassein offshore field to Gujarat through an appropriate pipeline system for which purpose, ONGC has been asked to take up necessary feasibility studies.

Setting up of a Caustic Soda Factory in Bihar

*307. SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued a letter of intent to the Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation for setting up a Caustic Soda factory in the district of Palamau in Bihar; and