

Since the production at the fertilizer plant has also been effected due to certain technological and other problems, it is not possible to quantify precisely the extent of loss on account of the power problems alone. However, the loss in production due to the total closure of the plant during the above period is estimated at 10,000 tonnes of urea.

Heavy overcrowding in suburban trains in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras

376. SHRI K. N. DHULAP : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is heavy overcrowding in suburban trains in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, particularly during peak-hours; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to augment the services so as to cope with the suburban traffic in these cities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Consistent with the availability of Electric Multiple Unit coaches and other requisite facilities by way of terminal facilities and Section capacity, continuous efforts are being made to introduce additional suburban trains to provide relief to commuters in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras areas. Altogether 75 suburban trains have been introduced in these areas during 1974-75 so far.

Prices of Alcohol

377. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to indecision on the prices of alcohol, the producing units are facing closure; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) No reports of closure of distilleries due to delay in revision of prices of alcohol have been received by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Take-over of Burmah Oil Company

378. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision in regard to the takeover of Burmah Oil Company, in the public Sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

Rise in oil prices

379. SFRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of production of crude in different oil producing and exporting countries has risen during the current year;

(b) if so, to what extent the per barrel price has risen in each country and how it compares with the corresponding rise in the cost of production in India; and

(c) whether these oil exporting countries have decided to pass on this increase in production cost to the consuming countries; if so, the proposed increase in the cost of crude to the imported from these countries into India and how it would affect the overall economy of petroleum industry in this country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) to (c) The actual cost of production of crude oil in different countries for the current year is not known. However, Iran is reported to have notified an increase of four cents per barrel in the cost of production of its various crude oils. The whole position is, however, not quite clear.