

soaps on the ground that prices of oils and fats have significantly increased. In the last few months there has been some fall in production of soaps by the organised sector. ISTMA have stated that in view of the present unremunerative prices of soaps, they are unable to purchase adequate quantities of oils at the prevailing high prices. ISTMA's representation for increase in the soap prices is being examined by Government. Reports of some retail dealers increasing the prices of soaps taking advantage of the scarcity condition have come to the notice of Government. More than half of the soap production in the country is by the small scale sector on which there is no price control.

Government is encouraging the use of rice bran oil and minor seed oils such as sal, neem, Karanj and mowah in soap manufacture, for which purpose the Excise rebate on use of such oils in soap manufacture was substantially increased with effect from 1st August, 1973.

There has been some increase in prices of synthetic detergents due to rise in price of the main imported raw material alkyl-benzene in the international market and also of the indigenous raw materials. Arrangements for import of adequate quantity of alkyl-benzene are being made.

As a long term measure with a view to make the synthetic detergent industry self-sufficient in its two raw materials viz., alkyl-benzene and sodium tripoly phosphate, production of the former has been planned by Indian Petro-Chemicals Corporation Ltd., in Public Sector and establishment of adequate capacity of STPP has been approved by Government. Government has also approved establishment of adequate capacity for manufacture of synthetic detergents.

(b) No, Sir.

Running of an additional train from Dimapur to Gauhati

*571. SHRI SCATO SWU:
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA
BURAGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is too much overcrowding in all the passenger trains running between Dimapur and Gauhati; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to operate an additional express train on the aforesaid route?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some overcrowding is noticed on both the pairs of direct trains running on Gauhati-Dimapur route viz. 3 Up/4 Dn Assam Mail and 5 Up/6 Dn Kamrup Express.

(b) For the convenience of through passengers travelling on this route, it is proposed to extend the biweekly 7 Up/8 Dn New Bongaigaon-Gauhati Mail to run to and from Tinsukia with effect from 1-10-1974. This will also cater for the traffic requirements between Dimapur and Gauhati.

Haldia Fertilizer Project

*572. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the commissioning of the Haldia fertilizer project is likely to be delayed by two years;

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

(c) whether it is proposed to import some equipment for the plant; and if so, the details thereof?