

in the short and the long run. A High Level Standing Committee has been set up by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals to take stock of the availability of furnace oil from time to time and to make recommendations for its use to the various categories of industries having regards to their *inter-se* priorities and feasibility of switch over to coal. The D.G.T.D. are also compiling the up-to-date requirements of furnace oil for different units and also the types of burning/combustion equipment used.

(iv) The possibilities of systematic substitution of coal as a fuel in place of furnace oil. The Fuel Policy Committee has already made certain recommendations in this regard. These possibilities are being borne in mind in the allocation of furnace oil. Side by side follow up action is being taken in order to ascertain the coal requirements and to ensure that the required coal is transported.

(v) The possibilities of alternative sources of energy. The National Committee on Science and Technology in a meeting held on the 24th January, 1974 considered in this context the various energy sources and the manner in which action needs to be intensified for the technological substitution of petroleum-based materials by others.

(vi) The Planning Commission has constituted 25 working Groups covering different fields in order to identify the measures to be taken for reducing the consumption of different petroleum products through substitute fuels and for achieving maximum operational efficiency in various industrial units.

(vii) Consequent on the increased foreign exchange commitments for petroleum products, the allocation of the available foreign exchange to other industrial products is kept under close review in order to ensure that production in all priority sectors is maintained.

Closure of Paper Mills

72. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO :

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKARADIVAREKAR :

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether 11 of the 36 small paper mills in the country have closed down due to shortage of fuel oil supplies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. B. RANA): (a) Government are not aware of any paper mill in the country having closed down due to shortage of fuel oil supplies.

(b) Does not arise.

Visit of Soviet Space Scientists

73. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether a delegation of top Soviet Space Scientists visited India in January, 1974.

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with the delegation; and

(c) the outcome thereof ?

PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The discussions were for finalising technical details, time schedules and test procedures for the Indian Scientific Satellite to be launched from U.S.S.R. At these discussions the first qualified prototype structure built in Bangalore was approved by both sides. The schedules for conducting the dynamic and static tests of the Satellite were drawn up. Detailed schedules and procedures for commencing work on the first flight model were finalised.

Police Firing in Gujarat

74 SHRI M.K. MOHTA :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

SHRI VENIGALA SATYANARAYANA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of police firing in Gujarat in January, 1974.

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the cases of arson, looting, shop breaking and rioting in that State during that month ?