

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 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the State Government.

Enquiry against Shaw Wallace and Company

75. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 104 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th November, 1973 and state :

(a) whether investigations against M/s Shaw Wallace and Co. Ltd. has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The investigations into all the aspects of the matter (relating to the sale, by M/s Shaw Wallace & Co., Ltd., of their shares in M/s R.G. Shaw & Co.,) which was referred to in the Starred Question No. 104, have not yet been completed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Investigations in such matters are, in the very nature of things, time consuming; and in this matter some aspects have to be looked into by agencies other than the Enforcement Directorate. It is not possible to indicate precisely when these investigations will be completed.

76. [Transferred to the 26th February 1974].

77. [Transferred to the 1st March, 1974].

Telephone Connections in Delhi

78. SHRI O.P. TYAGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections at present in Delhi;

(b) the number of applications received by the end of January, 1974 for new telephone connections;

(c) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration whereby new connections are proposed to be given; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH):

(a) The number of telephone connections at present in Delhi is 102,524.

(b) The total number of applications received by the end of January, 1974 for new telephone connections is 86,472 consisting of :

(i) OYT..... 17,370

(ii) General 55,727

(iii) Special..... 13,375

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Apart from 487 new connections opened during January, 1974, using connectable capacity in existing exchanges, additional exchange capacity of 1600 lines is expected to be installed during the current year. Another 4500 lines are expected to be installed in 1975 and 9000 lines in 1976. During the 5th Five Year Plan capacity of total of 65000 lines is expected to be added to the Delhi Telephone System.

Functioning of the Press Council

79. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

SHRI S.G. SARDESAI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Press Council has not been functioning for the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to put the Council in functioning order ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Raymond Company at Howrah

80. SHRI K.B. CHETTRI :

SHRI R.K. CHAKARABARTI :

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

(a) whether Government have made any enquiry into the affairs of Raymond Company at Howrah which is facing closure on account of losses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?