

Manufacture of P.V.C. Rasin in the country

- *97. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:
 SHRI ROSHAN LAL:
 MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM
 KHAPARDE:
 SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
 SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:
 SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY:
 SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

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

- (a) the number of P.V.C. resin manufacturers in the country;
 (b) whether such manufacturers depend on indigenous sources for raw material;
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) whether Government have attached any conditions for sale and distribution of their products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) There are five units manufacturing P.V.C. in the country.

(b) and (c) The major raw material viz., Naphtha or Alcohol or Calcium Carbide and Hydrochloric Acid or Chlorine are mainly indigenous.

(d) No, Sir.

Fuel Policy

*98. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any fresh policy in view of the high increase in the prices of crude oil from Persian Gulf countries; and
 (b) the steps taken by Government to maintain the production level in the industrial belt in both the public and private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH):

(a) Government have set up a Fuel Policy Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Chakravarty, Member, Planning Commission which is expected to submit its report shortly. Policy in this regard will be determined after Government have received and considered this Report.

(b) Government have taken a number of interim measures which include, *inter-alia*, the following:

- (i) Maximum possible curbs on non-essential consumption of oil products are being imposed;
 (ii) Every effort is being made to maintain the supplies to the essential sectors of the economy;

(iii) Bi-lateral contacts have been established with the oil producing countries in an effort of soften the consequences of the steep increase in prices of crude oil;

(iv) Intensified efforts are being made to explore and develop crude oil production in the country both on land and off-shore; and

(v) A co-ordinated plan is being drawn up to develop alternative sources of energy.

*99. [Transferred to the 1st March, 1974.]

Natural Gas from West Asia

*100. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government propose to acquire natural gas which is burnt as a waste product in Gulf States and other West Asian countries;

(b) If so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) What are the likely financial implications of the proposal in terms of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) No sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Colouring of Kerosene

*101. SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN

MANI-

SHANKER JOSHI:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether Government have recently directed oil companies operating in India that kerosene, whether indigenously produced or imported, should henceforth be coloured with orange dye; and

(b) if so, the reasons and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b) Instructions to this effect were given to oil companies but subsequently withdrawn due to the technical difficulties expressed by the oil companies in the use of orange dye for this purpose. The whole matter is now under reconsideration in consultation with the IIP and the marketing oil companies.