

Shri Jayprakash Narayan regarding the release of Sheikh Abdullah?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) There has been no occasion for Government to ascertain the views of Sheikh Abdullah in the matter.

(b) There is no proposal at present to remove the restrictions (of internment) imposed on Sheikh Abdullah.

PLANT TO PRODUCE LIGHT DIESEL-OIL FROM GUJARAT REFINERY

373. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have requested the Government of India for setting up a plant to produce light diesel oil from the Gujarat oil refinery; and

(b) if so, what is the decision of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The Government of Gujarat had suggested that the production of Light Diesel Oil may be undertaken at the Gujarat Refinery.

(b) Production of Light Diesel Oil will be commenced from January 1967.

ADULTERATION OF DIESEL OIL IN PUNJAB AND DELHI

374. SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJA GOPALAN): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the steps that have been taken by Government to prevent adulteration of Diesel oil in Punjab and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): The State Governments have organised raids and taken samples of Diesel Oil to detect adulteration. Certain alleged offenders are being prosecuted.

REVISION OF PAY SCALES IN KERALA

375. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all sections of Government servants in Kerala are dissatisfied with the revision of pay-scales as there are anomalies in the pay scales allowed to officers of the same category under different Departments; and

(b) if so, what are the steps contemplated by Government to remedy the defects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The pay-scales of the State Government employees were revised with effect from 1st January, 1966. Immediately after the issue of the orders in this behalf, representations were received by the State Government from several Service Associations, demanding further revision of the scales of pay and also pointing out certain anomalies and disparities arising out of the revision of pay scales. On examination of these representations, it was found that the Service Associations had sought to compare the better scales sanctioned to some categories of employees on special considerations such as technical qualifications, the added importance of their role in the developmental side of administrative activities etc., with lower scales of pay sanctioned to some other categories, although both the categories were having the same scale before the revision. In any scheme of general pay revision, it is not unlikely that separate scales of pay are sanctioned for different categories of employees who might have had the same scales of pay before the revision and such variations cannot be treated as anomalies or disparities. The anomalies and disparities