

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The owner of the mine has taken the stand that the Award is not legally binding on her as she was not a party to the reference to the Tribunal. The Government have decided to take appropriate legal action against the owner.

REDUCTION OF CRUDE OIL PRICES

*225. { SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:
SHRI RAM SINGH;
SHRI A. D. MANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that two oil companies have agreed to effect a cut in price of crude oil; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this respect; and whether, it is in consonance with the recommendations of the Talukdar Committee?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, Sir, with effect from the 1st January, 1966.

(b) Burmah-Shell and Caltex have offered a further discount of 8 cents per barrel on light Iranian Crude Oil effective from the 1st January, 1966, making the current price as \$1.40/barrel. The total discount now comes to 38 cents per barrel as against 40 cents suggested by the Talukdar Working Group on Oil Prices.

ESSO have offered a further discount of 4 cents on their Arabian Crude Mix as from the same date, making a current price of \$1.36/barrel. No com-

parable figure appears in the report of the Working Group for this crude mixture.

FERTILIZER FACTORY AT NAMRUP (ASSAM)

*226. THAKUR BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fertilizer factory has been set up by the Fertilizer Corporation of India at Namrup in Dibrugarh District in Assam; and

(b) if so, whether it is a coal based fertilizer or a Nephtha based plant?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A factory is being set up at Namrup by the Fertilizer Corporation of India. It will utilise natural gas available in the region as feed stock.

KOH-I-NOOR DIAMOND

*227. { SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:
SHRI G. M. MIR:
SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Punjab has requested the Central Government to approach the Government of the United Kingdom for the return of the Koh-i-Noor diamond; and

(b) if so, what action Government have so far taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) No such request has been received.

(b) Does not arise.