

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have offered to supply crude oil to India at considerably cheaper price and on rupee payment basis; and if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The companies are unable to utilize the Russian crude.

(c) During 1959, the total crude imported, by the three refineries is 4.9 million tons at prices varying from Rs. 76 to Rs. 85 per long ton c.i.f. Bombay/Visakhapatnam.

(d) Government, at present, have no facilities to process imported crude; and are, therefore, unable to avail of the Soviet offer.

LOANS TO REFUGEES IN ASSAM BY REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

72. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the refugees in Assam who were given business loans by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration have now been asked to pay the whole amount in lump sum instead of in monthly instalments; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for taking such action?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): (a) and (b). The loans granted by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration to displaced persons, wherever they have been settled, are generally repayable in annual instalments. Where loans are recalled under Section 14, or recoverable under Section 15 of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act, 1948, the entire outstanding amounts become

repayable in one lump sum. Monthly instalments are, sometimes, allowed by the Administration as an interim arrangement to accommodate a defaulting party. Where a defaulter does not keep up the interim arrangement, the Rehabilitation Finance Administration may resort to coercive recovery of the entire dues through the Collector as an arrear of land revenue. The Collector may, in his discretion, allow a further accommodation to the defaulter by agreeing to accept monthly instalments of the dues, or proceed to recover the amount in full.

BURNING OF POLICE UNIFORM BY AKALI DEMONSTRATORS IN DELHI

73. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 12th June, 1960 some Akali demonstrators burnt the uniform of a policeman in Chandni Chowk, Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the incident and what action Government have taken against such demonstrators?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT): (a) and (b). During the violent demonstration by the Akalis on the 12th June, 1960, the turbans of two policemen who were on duty near the Kotwali Police Station were snatched by the demonstrators and burnt. The culprits could not be traced as they escaped among the crowd that had collected there.

REDUCTION IN THE PRICE OF STEEL

74. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the increased production and decline in imports of steel Government propose to reduce the price of steel for the benefit of consumers; and