

closure of small scale industries include delayed payments, market uncertainties, natural calamities and accidents like fire-breakout, etc.

(b) The Government of India through Skill Development, Entrepreneurship Development and Management Development Programmes of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) helps the labourers rendered jobless by imparting new skills in them, which *inter alia* also benefit these labourers to get gainful employment or become self employed.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of MSME supports creation of common facility centres (CFCs) under its MSE-Cluster Development Programme whereas, the MSME-Development Institutes and other field offices of the Ministry support entrepreneurs by way of counseling, handholding and various outreach programmes.

Blending of methanol in petrol

1374. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering blending of methanol in petrol;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how far this step is likely to reduce pollution and make petrol cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) To take forward the initiative of methanol economy in India, the Government has taken the following steps:

- (i) NITI Aayog has constituted "Apex Committee on Methanol Economy" and five task forces to study various aspects of Methanol production and usage of its blend in gasoline in transport sector.
- (ii) BIS has set up a committee to finalise the methanol gasoline blend (M15) specifications.
- (iii) Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has started studies to establish the performance of Methanol Blend (15 per cent) in Gasoline and its efficacy to reduce pollution.

(c) Though methanol has more efficient and cleaner burning, it has nearly half the volumetric energy content of gasoline, indicating that it would require double quantity and price for the same energy output.