

Advance payment for petrol

57. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that although the bulk of the demands for petrol in the country are met from internal sources, still the price of petrol has been consistently raised and now it stands at Rs. 7.34 per litre as compared to Rs. 1.69 per litre in 1973;

(b) whether petrol dealers in the country are demanding advance payment of two months average petrol bill from customers who get petrol on credit basis; and

(c) the amount collected by petrol companies in advance from customers who get petrol on credit for which the petrol companies do not pay interest to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Petrol is produced in the country both from indigenous and imported crude oil. It is true that the selling prices of petrol have been increased over the past several years. The current price in Delhi is Rs. 7.00 per litre.

(b) and (c). All petroleum products are sold on cash and carry basis and no credit facility is recognised in the pricing arrangement. Credit arrangements, if any, between the dealers and the customers can only be on a voluntary basis.

Students Undergoing Training as Air Force Pilots at Defence Academy in Hyderabad

58. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons undergoing training as Air Force Pilots at the Defence Academy in Hyderabad in the year 1984-85;

(b) the number of students from foreign countries who are admitted into the Defence Air Force Academy for training; and

(c) whether the trainees after completing their courses are fully equipped to

pilot the latest Army Aircrafts purchased from foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) The number of trainees in Air Force Academy, Hyderabad during 1984-85 has been as follows :-

January 84 to June 84 — 64

July 84 to December 84 — 83

January 85 to June 85 — 82

Total — 229

(b) Only one officer from a foreign country is presently undergoing training as against five vacancies per course set apart for foreign trainees.

(c) Flying training is carried out in three stages. The trainees undergo operational training at different flying establishments in different streams. On completion of this training, pilots are posted to operational units to acquire flying skills on aircraft on which they are to be trained. It is only after their acquiring requisite flying skills and experience that they are permitted to fly more advanced aircraft including acquisitions from foreign countries.

Vacant Houses with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Bombay

59. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has taken possession of over 120 houses from the Maharashtra Housing Board, Bombay;

(b) if so, since when these houses are in the possession of the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd;

(c) the amount of rent the company has been paying to the Maharashtra Housing Board and since when;

(d) the number of houses actually occupied by the employees of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd;

(e) the number of houses vacant; and

(f) the reasons for keeping these houses vacant ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE : (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). In 1968, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) took on lease 130 tenements from the Maharashtra Housing Board, for providing residential accommodation to the workmen of the Santa Cruz Base of the Company. In 1981, 28 tenements were surrendered due to reduction in the staff. Of the remaining 102 tenements, 40 were purchased by HAL for the needs of their Liaison Office at Bombay 62 tenements continue to be held on lease.

(c) For the tenements on lease, HAL have paid rent at the rate of Rs. 85.75 per tenement per month upto December 1984, and Rs. 107.60 thereafter.

(d) to (f). At present 18 tenements are occupied by HAL staff while the rest are unoccupied. HAL's Santacruz base was closed on 31st December 1984. HAL were advised by Air Headquarters not to surrender the 62 tenements held on lease are required by the Indian Air Force.

Increase in Kerala State Quota of LPG Connections

60. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of LPG connections sanctioned to the State of Kerala during the year 1984 and what was the demand;

(b) whether the State Government has requested the Centre to increase the State quota; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) During 1984-85, Oil Companies have released about 53,000 new gas connections in the State of Kerala and about 34,000 applicants are in the waiting list.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise,

Self Sufficiency in Oil

61. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government expect to achieve self sufficiency in oil by 1990 ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to re-adjust the projections based on self sufficiency target by 1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Self sufficiency in the production of crude oil has been achieved to the extent of about 70% at present Efforts are directed to attainment of complete self sufficiency in oil at the earliest. However, since the exploration for oil is highly probabilistic in nature it is not possible to indicate with any certitude when self sufficiency can be attained.

Delay in Delivery of Telegrams

62. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite modernisation and advent of computers and administrative streamlining, the telegrams are taking longer than ever before to deliver (see Times of India 22-6-1985) and if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed thereon;

(b) the number of telegrams sent during 1985 which were delivered in one day, in two days and beyond three days or more and reasons for delays;

(c) whether Government propose as a first step towards user/consumer protection to refund the telegram charges to all those where telegrams took more than one day to be delivered to the addressee; and

(d) whether Government will set up watch dog Committees with public and consumer organisations representatives for every Post Office in the country with suitable Apex bodies for each District, State and at the national level?