

Shortage of High Speed Diesel

1037. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the shortage of high speed diesel (HSD) has a telling effect on the industry which is on the verge of closure; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to supply HSD to Tripura to save the industry as well as the workers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) (a) Due to the closure of Bongaigaon and Barauni refineries and intermittent running of Digboi and Gauhati refineries, there have been shortages in the areas fed by these refineries. The State Governments have been advised to give the highest priority in allotment of diesel to agriculture. The normal consumption of High Speed Diesel by the industries is very small. It is not possible to assess the effect of power shortage in industry and consequent increase in demand for High Speed Diesel.

(b) The following quantity of High Speed Diesel was supplied to Tripura from January, 1980:—

January, 1980	.	960	Metric Tonnes
February, 1980	.	673	" "
March, 1980	.	783	" "
April, 1980	.	844	" "
			(provisional)
May, 1980 (allocation)		1300	Metric Tonnes
June, 1980 (allocation)		1200	" "

A very close monitoring is being maintained over supplies of the pro-

duct to North Eastern States and Union Territories, including Tripura in order to ensure maximum availability and equitable distribution of the available product in that region. The refineries at Digboi and Gauhati are functioning now and supply of petroleum products in Tripura have also started improving.

Protest against rise in drug prices by Indian Medical Association

1038. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
SHRI N. E. HORO:

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

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the statement issued by the Indian Medical Association on 19th April, 1980 protesting against a further rise in drug prices;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the prices of drugs including the life-saving ones were already beyond the reach of the common people?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The Indian Medical Association, New Delhi, have informed us that they have not issued any statement concerning rise in drug prices on April 19, 1980.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have not allowed any price increases for price-controlled drugs including life-saving ones after March, 1978.

The table given below would indicate that while the prices of commodities other than drugs have risen substantially, the prices of drugs have, on the whole, remained steady for the last four years and have, in

fact, witnessed a marginal decline during the last two years:

Year	Wholesale price index of medicines	Wholesale price index of all commodities taken together
1976-77	133.9	176.6
1977-78	136.3	185.8
1978-79	136.1	185.8
1979-80	135.2	217.1
	Base year 1970 71	

Documentaries made by Satyajit Ray for Films Division

1039. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a report that renowned Director Satyajit Ray has said that his two out of a dozen documentaries made for Films Division were never shown to public and were untraceable;

(b) if so, what happened to these two documentaries named "Two" and on "Sikkim" made in 1971;

(c) if missing, who are responsible for this and whether the responsible persons will be punished; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to trace them and shown them to public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) to (d). The reports appearing in the newspapers indicate that Shri Satyajit Ray

made two documentary films (a) 'Two' and (b) 'Sikkim' for the International Oil Company, ESSO and the Government of Sikkim respectively and not for the Films Division. Films Division were never approached either by ESSO or by Government of Sikkim for releasing these documentaries on theatrical circuit. In view of this, the question of their release by the Films Division does not arise.

Handing over Badarpur Thermal Power Station to DESU

1040. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has been urged to handover Badarpur Thermal Station to DESU; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Executive Councillor Delhi Administration in a letter during September 1979 had urged Central Government for transferring of Badarpur Thermal Power Station to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

(b) Badarpur Thermal Power Station is the first Thermal Power Station that has been set up in the Central Sector to supplement the power supply to Delhi on a priority basis and to other States in the Northern Region. The Station is under the ownership of the Central Government, which has the responsibility for making the best arrangements for its further expansion, operation and maintenance. In order to promote integrated power development in the various regions and to ensure optimum utilisation of resources, Central generating stations such as Badarpur have been found to be necessary. The National Thermal Power Corporation (N.T.P.C.) is a