

Norms of Fuel Efficiency of Automobiles

1026. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have a proposal to upgrade the existing norms of fuel efficiency of automobiles;

(b) if so, the main reasons for up-grading the existing norms of fuel efficiency ; and

(c) to what extent such upgradation will prove helpful in affecting the efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). With a view to encouraging the automobile manufacturers to produce fuel efficient vehicles with modern technology, Government has extended various fiscal concessions. In order to further upgrade the fuel efficiency standards and to set long term norms to be achieved by the vehicle manufacturers, Government had appointed a committee to examine the matter and give its recommendations. The committee has submitted its report suggesting norms for the continuous improvement of the fuel efficiency standards.

Safety Tests on Maruti Vehicles

1027. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Gypsy is considered to be unsafe judged by accident-avoidance tests as has been reported in the "Sunday Observer" of 3-9 July, 1988;

(b) whether Suzuki-Samurai sister vehicle of Maruti has been declared as unac-

ceptable by the consumers Union of USA, a top consumer organisation; and

(c) whether regular safety tests are conducted on Maruti vehicle before clearance and after manufacture at random and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to this report, a consumer organisation in the USA has found the Samurai to be prone to be 'toppling over'. Samurai and Maruti Gypsy are different vehicles.

(c) Gypsy has been awarded a road worthiness certificate by Vehicle Research & Development Establishment at Ahmednagar and Automotive Research Association of India at Pune.

Canadian Assistance in Power Generation

1028. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have recently invited Canadian Co-operation and Assistance in Power Generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchanged likely to be provided by Canada for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). Canadian assistance has been offered for execution of the Chamera Hydro-electric Project, Stage II (3x100MW). The offer is under negotiation. The quantum of

the Canadian assistance that may be available would be known after the negotiations are concluded.

Difference Between Dearness Allowance to Public Sector Employees and Central Govt. Employees

1029. SHRI TAHMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a difference between the Dearness Allowance paid to Public Sector Employees and the Central Government Employees ; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to remove the disparity which is causing unrest among the public sector employees?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Govt. policy is that all public sector employees should be governed by the Industrial DA pattern. Govt.'s directions to public sector employees to switch over to the Industrial DA pattern has been challenged in the Supreme Court. As per the direction of the Supreme Court, a High Power Pay Committee has been constituted to go into the various aspects relating to pay scales and other incidental matters such as additional DA, interim relief and other allowances relating to employees working in the public sector governed by Central Govt. pattern pay scale and D.A.

Proposal for Gas Based Thermal Plant From Punjab State Electricity Board

1030. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for allotment of a gas based thermal plant of 400 MW capac-

ity has been received from the Punjab State Electricity Board to augment installed capacity;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the above proposal; and

(c) the financial implications of the proposal and how these are proposed to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) to (c). No proposal in regard to setting up of a 400 MW gas-based power station has been received from the Punjab State Electricity Board.

12.00 hrs

RE: NEWS APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA ABOUT TERRORISTS PLOT TO KILL PRIME MINISTER AND HOME MINISTER ETC.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Can somebody explain this?

(Interruptions)

SPEAKER: Mr. Bhatia.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have Asked Mr. Bhatia to Speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Don't worry. Let me listen first. Why don't you let me listen? Let me listen. Yes, Mr Bhatia.

(Interruptions)