

such as shortage of wagons, labour problems being facted both by coal suppliers and Railways and delay in release of wagons by the power station.

Liberalization for Import of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products

7305 SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in reply to Starred Question No. 391 on 20th March, 1979, the Minister of State for Petroleum accepted the suggestion of Shri R K Amin regarding liberalization of import of crude oil and petroleum products in view of comfortable foreign exchange position;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to liberalise the import of petrol and petroleum products through private agencies or State agencies; and

(c) whether the acceptance by the Minister of State for Petroleum of the suggestion referred to in part (a) above has not contravened the announced policy of the Government that petrol and petroleum products will be imported on a State to State basis according to the need of the country.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) From the record of discussion in the Lok Sabha on 20.3.1979, it would be seen that the Minister of State for Petroleum had only agreed to examine the suggestion relating to liberalisation of import of petrol and petroleum products in relation to the comfortable position of foreign exchange.

(b) and (c). The requirements of crude oil/product imports are determined each year on the basis of estimated overall demand for petro-

leum products, the expected availability of indigenous crude oil and the available refining capacity in the country. Imports of products are planned only after optimising crude processing in the refineries in the country. Simultaneously, steps are being taken to reduce consumption of petroleum products to the extent possible.

The bulk of our crude oil and products imports are in terms of contract with the National Oil Companies of the Oil Producing Countries. There is no change in the existing policy providing for canalised import of crude oil and petroleum products only through public sector undertakings under the guidelines issued by the Government from time to time. There is no proposal to allow the import of crude oil and petroleum products through private agencies

Gulbarga and Bhadravati Relaying Stations

7306. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present relaying stations at Gulbarga and Bhadravati would be made independent stations since those stations have been working for a long time; and

(b) how much time it would take to make them independent?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). It is proposed to convert the auxiliary centres at Gulbarga and Bhadravati into full-fledged programme originating stations by setting up permanent studios at Gulbarga and Shimoga (for AIR Bhadravati) during the Sixth Plan period (1978-83).