

Import of Crude Oil

1036. SHRI DHARMAVIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS: be pleased to state:

(a) the results of Industry Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia *vis-a-vis* the gap in crude oil imports of the Order of 4.5 million tonnes during 1979;

(b) what firm commitments have been obtained from Iraq, U.A.E., Soviet Union and other countries regarding crude supplies for the same period; and

(c) the nature of long-term arrangement regarding domestic exploration and foreign imports?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) As a result of Industry Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia, it was assured by the Saudi Arabian Government that they would do their best to meet our additional requirements of crude oil. Exact details would be worked out shortly.

(b) The following import arrangements have been firmed up for crude imports during 1979:—

Country	Qty.	Million	Tonnes
Iraq	.	.	5.5
UAE	.	.	1.5
Saudi Arabia	.	.	2.5
U.S.S.R.	.	.	1.5

(c) All attempts are being made to intensify our exploration activities and plans are being made for exploitation of our established reserves. However, it is envisaged that the country will have to continue to import crude to meet the domestic demand for petroleum products, in the foreseeable future;

Take-over of certain sick units by Bennet, Coleman and Company

1037. SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bennet, Coleman and Company Limited, publishers of the Times of India etc., have decided to take over sick units—Rohtas Industries Limited and New Central Jute Mills Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details;

(c) whether under the Companies Act, they have completed the formalities and sought permission from the Government; and

(d) if so, the particulars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) to (d). A public limited company desiring to make investment in the shares of any other body corporate in excess of the percentages specified in Section 372 of the Companies Act, 1956 is required to make an application for approval of the Central Government. In certain cases, such proposals may also require approval of the Central Government under Section 108A of that Act. No such proposal from M/s. Bennett, Coleman & Company Limited has been received for purchase of shares of either M/s. Rohtas Industries Limited or New Central Jute Mills Company Limited.

Short Service Commissioned Officers relieved of service assignments

1038. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Short Service Commissioned Officers relieved of