

Production of Caprolactum

8610. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KID-WAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the only joint sector unit at Baroda producing Caprolactum has stepped down or altogether stopped production in view of accumulating stocks with it;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that users of this commodity which are in private sector prefer to import caprolactum since it is cheaper abroad by over Rs. 10,000 per tonne; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to make this plan commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The production of Caprolactum by the Gujarat State Fertilizer Company, the only producer of caprolactam in the country, during the years 1979, 1980 and 1981, was about 13,030 tonnes, 13,945 tonnes and 11,800 tonnes respectively. Production of caprolactam has not stopped.

(b) The indigenous capacity and production of caprolactum is not sufficient to meet the demand of about 40,000 tonnes/annum. Therefore, imports are inevitable.

(c) The Gujarat State Fertilizer Company is a commercially viable organisation.

Running / Commentaries of Events on Doordarshan in English and Hindi

8611. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that running commentaries of events on

Doordarshan are done only in English and Hindi; and

(b) if so, what is the reason of excluding regional languages from running commentaries on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Running Commentaries are often telecast in regional languages from various Doordarshan Kendras specially in the case of sports of local and regional interest. However, commentaries on major National or International sports events are telecast only in Hindi and English as these telecast go on the entire TV network and it is not possible due to paucity of Channels and Transmission time to add regional commentaries.

Allotment of Gas Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Uttar Pradesh

8612. SHRIMATI KAILASH PATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas agencies and petrol pumps allotted in the State of Uttar Pradesh so far;

(b) how many of them have been allotted to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories; and

(c) the number of gas agencies and petrol pumps proposed to be allotted to the general and scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) As on 1-1-1982, there were 72 LPG agencies and 1509 petrol/diesel pumps in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) SC/ST LPG agencies and petrol pumps have been specially earmarked since Government introduced

the reservation policy. 4 LPG agencies and 9 petrol/diesel pump dealerships were awarded since then to Scheduled Castes. No award has been made to Scheduled Tribe candidate so far.

(c) Out of a total of 43 LPG agencies proposed for Uttar Pradesh in 1982-83 plan, 13 have been earmarked for Scheduled Castes category, none for Scheduled Tribes and the rest for 'Open' and other reserved categories. The 1982-83 plan for Petrol/Diesel pumps is yet to be finalised by the Industry.

Hearing of cases filed 10 years ago in Supreme Court

8613. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases filed 10 years ago in the Supreme Court have still not come up for hearing;

(b) are Government aware that justice delayed is justice denied; and

(c) what steps are being taken to see that such cases get priority over all other cases for disposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL):

(a) As per information furnished by the Supreme Court Registry, the number of cases filed in the Supreme Court 10 years ago (i.e. in 1972 and earlier) which had not come up for hearing till 1st March, 1982 was 2047.

(b) and (c). Delays in the disposal of cases are undoubtedly a cause of serious concern. The Supreme Court Registry has not reported any special measures to give priority to 10 year old cases over all other cases. The Registry has pointed out that occasionally larger benches are constituted to hear important constitutional matters. Such larger benches have to be constituted depending upon the matter and nature of question involved. Further, special cate-

gory of matters like Habeas Corpus petitions, Election Appeals, Tax Appeals and Criminal Appeals involving capital sentences have to be given priority over ordinary civil appeals. Special dates are therefore fixed for urgent matters. The Supreme Court Registry has, however, intimated various steps that have been taken to expedite cases generally. These include: grouping together of writ petitions with identical questions and listing them together for hearing grouping together of other matters involving identical questions and making efforts to see that such groups are disposed of early. With a view to cutting short the time factor involved, in the preparation of records, the Supreme Court rules were revised in 1966 providing for printing of records under the Court's own supervision. As that was also taking quite some time, the Court of late has started, wherever possible, dispensing with the preparation of records and hearing the appeals on special leave paper book itself, after the parties have filed their counter affidavits and affidavits in reply. In urgent matters, the Court fixes a date of hearing of appeals. The Supreme Court rules have been amended to vest more powers in the Registrar and the Judge in chambers so that more time is available to the Court for regular matters. Other amendments have also been made in the rules for the purpose of expedition. On Mondays and Fridays the Court assembles in 7 divisions to hear miscellaneous matters.

Apart from the above mentioned measures taken by the Supreme Court, the Tenth Law Commission has been constituted recently and one of its terms of reference is to keep under review the system of judicial administration with the object of securing *inter alia* elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be