

(a) whether oil producing countries in the Middle East represented by OPEC and the Western Oil Companies had recently come to an agreement for a 11.9 per cent upward revision in crude oil price over that in January; and

(b) if so, what are the implications of the agreement on the oil consuming countries and particularly on India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This has resulted in an increase in the posted prices of crude oils. Since the oil revenues of the OPEC Governments (royalties and taxes) are realised as percentages on posted prices, increases in posted prices have resulted in increased revenues to the OPEC Governments. The oil consuming countries like India have had to bear a minimum increase in crude oil prices to compensate the oil companies for the increases in the tax paid costs of crude oils.

Agreement with Iraq and Saudi Arabia for Import of Crude Oil

293. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:
SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether India has entered into agreements with Iraq and Saudi Arabia for the import of Crude oil; and

(b) if so, the quantity of crude to be imported from these countries and the value thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Indian Oil Corporation Limited have entered into commercial Agreements with (1) the Iraq National Oil Company for the

import of 1.95 million tonnes of crude oil and (2) PETROMIN of Saudi Arabia for the import of 3.3 million tonnes of crude oil. Both these are State owned Companies. It is not in the commercial interest of the IOC to dis-close the prices.

Amendment to M.R. P.P. Act

294. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3022 dated the 13th March, 1973 regarding the amendment to Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act and state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act;

(b) If so, the results achieved; and

(c) whether any decision on the proposal to amend the Act with a view to make it more effective in preventing the growth of monopolies has since been taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) to (c). The matter is still under examination.

Reduction of Foreign Capital by some Foreign Drug Companies

295. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHERIEF:

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

(a) whether some foreign drug Companies had indicated their willingness to reduce their foreign capital; and

(b) if so, the names of such Companies and to what extent they had agreed to reduce this foreign capital?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. M/s. Alkali and Chemical Corporation of India Ltd., M/s. Pfizer Ltd. and M/s. German Remedies have agreed to reduce their foreign equity from 75.5 per cent to 60 per cent; from 75 per cent to 40 per cent respectively. Other foreign firms viz. M/s. Abbott Laboratories India Ltd., M/s. May and Baker Ltd., and M/s. Searle India Ltd., have been shown a definite inclination to dilute their foreign equity but these proposals have yet to be finalised.

Allotment of Wagons to Mysore Government for movement of Grants from North

296. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN**
SHRI DHARAMRAO AFZAL-PURKAR:

Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Mysore are not getting foodgrains regularly due to the non-availability of Wagons from North;

(b) whether he was also requested to look into this matter by any Minister from Mysore;

(c) if so, his reaction thereto; and

(d) the number of wagons allotted to the State during the last four months for the supply of foodgrains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Not to the knowledge of this Ministry.

(b) Requests were received from the Chief Minister of Mysore to arrange supply of wagons preferentially for movement of 1600 tonnes of jowar from Uttar Pradesh and 1082 tonnes of bajra from Madhya Pradesh on account of the Mysore State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited.

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(c) Instructions were issued immediately to the concerned Railway Administrations to clear traffic in question preferentially.

(d) Mostly movement of grains from surplus to deficit States is arranged by the Food Corporation of India. During the last four months from March to June 1973, 2977 Broad Gauge wagons were loaded with foodgrains from stations on the Northern Railway to Mysore State on account of the Food Corporation of India.

In addition, movement of jowar from Uttar Pradesh as indicated in reply to part (b) above, has already been completed. Despatch of bajra from Madhya Pradesh is being arranged on top-priority basis.

Expansion of Haldia Refinery

297. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:**
DR. RANEN SEN:

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

(a) whether Government have agreed in principle to the expansion of the Haldia Refinery; and

(b) if so, the main features of the expansion proposed and the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The Task Force on Oil Refining constituted by the Planning Commission has proposed a refining capacity of 43 million tonnes to be achieved by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan. One of the proposals made by the Task Force for achieving this refining capacity is expansion of the Haldia Refinery. The report of the Task Force including the optimum refining capacity to be built during the Fifth Plan is under consideration.