

Restoration of power cut in Punjab

178. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 40 per cent power cut was imposed in Punjab recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to restore the cut?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Due to increase in demand for power and inadequate availability of energy in the System, the Punjab Authorities have imposed selective restrictions on power consumption, the maximum cut being 40 per cent

(c) The restoration of the cuts would depend upon improvements in the energy availability. All possible steps are being taken for maximising generation and expediting commissioning of new projects

Supply of oil to Steel Plants and other establishments

179. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have decided that no immediate cuts should be imposed on supplies of oil to steel plants, power generation units, fertiliser factories, railways, defence installations and defence production units, and

(b) if so, whether the earlier circular issued to refineries for curtailment of supplies to steel plants and power units is being withdrawn; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) In view of the steep increase in prices of crude oil and refined petroleum products and the critical Furnace Oil availability in the world market, it has not been possible to meet the Furnace Oil requirements of the country in full. The Government have, therefore, advised the oil companies to meet upto 90 per cent of the requirements, of industries based on the past off-takes. This 10 per cent cut has been imposed uniformly for all consumers for the months of January and February, 1974

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Decision to market blue kerosene oil

180 SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA SHRI R R SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have decided to market in the country blue kerosene oil; and

(b) if so the reasons and the advantages thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) The proposal of colouring kerosene in blue is under the active consideration of the Government

(b) The advantage of dyeing kerosene will facilitate detection if it is adulterated with Motor-Spirit

Poor Financial results by Electricity Boards

181 SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state.

(a) whether Electricity Boards in various States would show poor finan-