

Outstandings to State Electricity Boards

8748. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount State Electricity Boards owe to the Coal India Ltd.,

(b) the action being contemplated to realise the amount; and

(c) whether the State Electricity Boards pay reasonable interest over the defaulted payments?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Total outstanding dues of Coal India Ltd., as on 31.3.90 from various Electricity Boards/Power Utilities are Rs. 1876.60 crore including Rs. 715.08 crores which is under dispute.

(b) Steps taken/being taken to liquidate the outstanding dues include:

(i) Regular follow up action is being taken by Coal India Ltd and its subsidiaries to realise outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards.

(ii) States Electricity Boards were advised to Open Letter of Credits in favour of coal companies to cover future supplies. But response from them has been, so far, negative. Therefore, from 1.4.1990 a system of linking supplies of coal progressively to advance payment to State Electricity Boards having outstanding dues equivalent to two months' billing has been introduced. In case of State Electricity Boards defaulting in observing this dis-

cipline coal companies will be free to take steps in the direction of curtailing or stopping supplies of coal to their power stations.

(c) As per agreement State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities are supposed to pay interest for delayed payment of the bill, but they are generally not making any payment of interest.

Availability of Films Manufactured by Hindustan Photo Films Co. Ltd.

8749. SHRI E.S.M. PAKEER MOHMED:
SHRI R. MUTHAIH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report in Indian Express of 11 April, 1990 on Government policy on photo films;

(b) if so, whether the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd. is able to meet the demand of the country in Photo Paper, Cine Films and Industrial X-ray films; if not, how many of these items are on OGL;

(c) whether the import of X-ray films has been banned;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any complaints have been received regarding poor quality or shortage of the films manufactured by the Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd. and their pricing; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Hindustan Photo Films Ltd. (HPF) has been progressively meeting the demand of black and white range of photographic products through its integrated production programme. For meeting the demand in respect of products such as cine colour positive, X-ray films, graphic art films, colour paper etc. the company is undertaking conservation for imported Jumbo rolls. The company is presently setting up facilities for integrated manufacture of polyester based medical X-ray, industrial X-ray and graphic art films. Jumbo rolls of all converted products are presently under OGL

(c) and (d). Four special types of X-ray films which are being manufactured by HPF have been shifted from OGL to the list of 'limited permissible items' under the current Import Policy.

(e) and (f). There have been some complaints about the quality and shortage of films. Whenever complaints are received, these are investigated and corrective steps taken either to replace the material or to advise the user about the proper usage of the materials. The company has a well defined quality assurance programme. It also maintains a good level of inventory to meet any contingencies

As regards prices, the same are guided by a formula laid-down by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP).

Fall in International Oil Prices

8750. SHRI SHANTARAM
POTDUKHE:
DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA
REDDY:

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

(a) whether there has recently been a fall in the international oil prices;

(b) the Government's present oil import strategy to get maximum price advantage;

(c) whether Government are contemplating spot market buying of crude and petroleum products in the present day falling market; and

(d) if so, the quantity of crude etc. likely to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. However, international market in crude oil is very volatile and subject to seasonal fluctuations. Current low prices may be a short term phenomenon.

(b) to (d). Import of crude oil is made both under term contracts with national oil companies of producing countries as well as through purchases in the spot market. Prices under all our term contracts are now also market related i.e. they are fixed according to a formula linked to spot market quotations of crudes which are heavily traded on the spot market. Therefore, benefit of any fall in the international oil prices automatically accrues to us for upliftments under our term contracts also.

Quantities of crude to be purchased each month depend on the projected refining requirements, our inventory holding capacity of imported crude and upliftments under term contracts. Spot purchases are made as and when required to meet the balance requirements after term purchases. Presently, no additional quantities in spot market are being purchased because of limitations of inventory holding capacity.

New Trains in South Central Railways

8751. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONTALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: