

(a) and (b). High Speed Diesel Oil is an essential petroleum product used predominantly in the transport and agricultural sectors. In small quantities, it is also used in industries for standby power generation. While all efforts will continue to be made to minimise its use for standby power generation and to bring about greater efficiency in its use, it is proposed to provide adequate high speed diesel oil to meet its growing demand in full.

#### Utilisation of Installed Capacities of Refineries

\*189. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the installed capacities of all the refineries are not fully utilised; and

(b) if so, the reasons and broad features thereof

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Inland refineries all of which are based on indigenous crude oil, are processing all the crude received by them from the oil fields in Assam and Gujrat. The coastal refineries based on imported crude, may have to operate at reduced levels during the current year on account of constraints of foreign exchange and demand for products in the relevant supply areas.

#### Expansion of Madras Refineries

\*190. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration an expansion programme of Madras Refineries Limited; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The proposal envisages the expansion of refining capacity from 2.8 MTPA to 3.5 MTPA, lube capacity from 200,00 tonnes to 270,000 tonnes per year, and the establishment of a Paraffin Wax Plant with a capacity of 20,000 tonnes per year.

#### National Drug Development Authority

\*191. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a National Drug Development Authority; and

(b) if so, whether Drug Development Authority will be overall in-charge of planning, licensing and expansion of production capacity of drugs manufactured in India?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). The Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry have recommended the establishment of a statutory body called the National Drug Authority of India with a view to streamlining operations and achieving the basic objectives of producing and distributing essential drugs to the largest number of people as economically as may be possible. The Committee has also indicated various functions of the NDA, its composition and mode of financing. The implications of the creation of NDA on the lines indicated by the Committee are being studied particularly with reference to the existing statutory responsibilities of various Ministries of the Government of India.