

under the long term contract. Further arrangements for covering the remaining requirements of imported crude oil are under different stages of negotiations.

(b) and (c). Considering the high level of crude oil prices prevailing in the world spot market, considerable extra burden would have been imposed in the event India had been unable to firm up long term arrangements covering crude imports during 1979. However, in view of the fluctuating spot market for crude and the fact that even in earlier years the bulk of the country's crude imports were organised on a Government to Government basis it would be difficult to compute the national savings on this account.

(c) Excluding an availability of the order of 1.4 million tonnes per annum from EXXON towards the requirements of the Hindustan Petroleum Refinery in Bombay under a long term contract, the balance of the crude import arrangements have been entered into with the National Oil Companies of the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries.

(d) There is no proposal at present to purchase crude oil from the open market.

Urdu Papers facing crisis

*602. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHE-RIEF: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Urdu papers are facing financial crisis;

(b) whether it is a fact that they are not getting satisfactory financial aid and that Government patronage is not extended to these papers in the matter of advertisements; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government to help these papers to tide over their financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Government have no such information.

(b) Urdu newspapers and journals are being given special consideration in the matter of minimum circulation for release of Government advertisements and, in fact, receive a fair share of Government advertisements, ranking third among the various languages in terms of space and value of DAVP advertisements. In any case Government advertisements are not intended to serve as a measure of financial assistance or support; it is also not Government's policy to extend financial aid to any section of the press.

(c) Does not arise.

Kerosene scarcity due to faulty Distribution

*603. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press reports in the *Hindustan Times* dated 9th March, 1979 under the heading Kerosene scarcity due to faulty distribution;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government;

(c) who are the authorities responsible;

(d) what action was taken against them; and

(e) to what extent the kerosene scarcity has been solved?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir.