

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES QUESTION: 230.

Mr R A Lees (DA-KZN) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) Whether there is sufficient supply of locally produced bitumen to meet the current and future requirements; if not, (a) why not, (b) what impact will the shortage of bitumen have on road (i) building and (ii) maintenance and (c) what action (i) has been or (ii) will be taken to increase the supply of bitumen; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the proposed new fuel refinery which will be built by PetroSA will produce bitumen; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether the output of bitumen from this proposed refinery will meet the current and future requirements; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CW292E

Reply

- (1) Information on bitumen supply at the Department's disposal indicates that there is sufficient supply of bitumen. However shortages can occur occasionally due to extended and unplanned refinery shutdowns which coincide with peak demand periods.
- (2) The planned Project Mthombo refinery configuration has not been finalised and thus this cannot be confirmed.
- (3) The question has been addressed in (2) above