

Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited (RSMML) have been pleading for reduction in railway freight for SMS grade limestone. Ministry of Railways has stated that Railways were charging concessional station to station rate for limestone till 30.6.98 and thereafter normal tariff rates have become applicable. However, the classification had been reduced to Class 130 (wagonload) and 125 (trainload) thereby, reducing freight by about 3.8%. From 1.4.2000, its classification has been further reduced to Class 125 (wagonload) and class 120 (trainload) thereby reducing the effect of general 5% increase to 1% approximately. In addition, during the year 1999-2000, limestone was included under the Volume Discount Scheme. Under this scheme, incremental traffic over and above the prescribed benchmark qualifies for freight rebate of 8-10%.

The State Government of Rajasthan has reported that the production of SMS grade limestone and despatches of the same by the two State Government Public Sector Undertakings namely RSMDC and RSMML were as follows:—

(figures in lakh tonnes)

Year	Production	Despatch
1997-98	10.55	10.48
1998-99	10.94	10.01
1999-2000	10.63	10.83

It has also been confirmed by the Ministry of Railways that they have loaded more number of wagons at full tariff rates in 1999-2000 as compared to 1998-99 at concessional rate.

(d) Does not arise.

WCL Coal Handling Plant in Madhya Pradesh

4797. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) has constructed coal handling plant in 1980 at Wony area near Chandrapur district and Kahanan, Madhya Pradesh;

[10 May, 2000]

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- (b) if so, the amount spent on the construction of these plants; and
- (c) the quantity of coal handled through these plants, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) No Coal handling plant was constructed in 1980 at Wani area near Chandrapur or Kanhanan in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) In view of the reply to part 'a' above, question does not arise.

New Sources of Non-conventional Energy

4798. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) how many new sources of non-conventional energy have been developed in the country;
- (b) the State-wise position of energy production; and
- (c) what steps will be taken for such sources in the backward areas of Eastern India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programmes such as biogas plants, improved chulhas, integrated rural energy programme, energy parks, small hydro power (upto 25 MW), wind power, solar power, biomass/co-generation, biomass gasifier, solar photovoltaics, solar thermal, solar cooker, solar photovoltaic pumps and small aerogenerators etc. depending upon technical feasibility and economic viability of available technologies throughout the country. The State-wise achievements made under various Non-conventional Energy programmes till 31st March, 2000 is given in the Statement. (*See below*)

(c) Ministry is making concerted efforts in the high focus areas identified for implementation of its various programmes, which also include many backward areas of Eastern India. For biogas and improved chulha programmes higher rates of subsidies are also provided for the high focus areas.