

[10 May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) The per capita consumption of zinc in the country at present is estimated at 0.26 Kg. per annum.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) is expanding the existing installed capacities of Vizag Smelter in Andhra Pradesh and Debari Smelter in Rajasthan by 10,000 tonnes per annum each.

(d) HZL plans to expand its Rampura Agucha Mine from existing level of 4500 tonnes per day (tpd) to 6000 tpd.

(e) and (f) HZL plans to set up a new Zinc Smelter of 1,00,000 tonnes per annum capacity at Kapasan, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.

Railways Freight Concession for Limestone

†4796. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the superior quality limestone which is very essential for steel plants is available in abundance in the Sanu region of Rajasthan;

(b) whether the concession given in railway freight has been gradually reduced in the last year as a result of which mining has come on the verge of closure;

(c) whether thousands of families will be rendered jobless as a result thereof and previous foreign exchange will have to be spent on the import of this mineral; and

(d) what concrete measures are being taken to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Superior quality limestone with low silica content (below 1.5% SiO₂) essential for steel plants is available in Sanu region of Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The major producers of SMS grade limestone, viz. Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation Limited (RSMDC) and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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;