

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

Increase in the price of soda ash

675. SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the producers of soda ash have increased the prices of soda ash further on account of price hike in coal;

(b) if so, what is its price increase per tonne;

(c) whether the producers have informed Government of the price increase;

(d) if so, whether Government are satisfied that the price increase is in accordance with the extra cost involved for coal per tonne of soda ash production;

(e) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has been consulted in the matter; and

(f) if so, what is its opinion in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH):

(a) to (f) The coal prices were increased with effect from 8-1-1984. Subsequent thereto, the producers of soda ash have increased their prices as below:

Name of Producer	Increase in price of Soda ash light (in Rs. per tonne)
M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd.	182.20
M/s. Saurashtra Chemicals Ltd.	165.00
M/s. Dhrangadhra Chemicals Ltd.	220.00
M/s. Hari Fertilizers Ltd.	120.00
M/s. Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited.	163.68

The producers have reported their increased prices to Government, attributing the increases to increase in input costs such as coal, freight, power and jute bags. The matter, as to whether the increase in prices was reasonable, was referred to Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices, who will take into account these factors while updating the earlier study on Soda Ash Costs & Prices. The matter will, thereafter, be placed before the Sub-Committee on Price & Cost Structure.

Memorandum from Telephone Consumers' Guidance Society, Calcutta

676. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum from Telephone Consumers' Guidance Society Calcutta, addressed to the Prime Minister has been received;

(b) if so, what are the demands of the society; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) A copy of memorandum No. 58/PM/84 dated 11-6-1984 from Telephone Consumers' Guidance Society of India, Calcutta addressed to the Prime Minister, endorsed to the Chairman P&T Board New Delhi, has been received on 6th July, 84. It is not known if any other memorandum has also been sent by the said Society.

(b) The demands of the Telephone Consumers' Guidance Society, Calcutta detailed in the memorandum are:

(i) Calcutta Telephone Advisory Committee has not yet been formed, though the term of last Committee expired on 31-12-83, and this shows the inefficiency of the Ministry of Communications and the Central Government;