

(c) whether any member of the Small Industries Association has been included in the committee and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Sub-Committee on Production Distribution and Marketing has representation of both producers and consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) to (c) The Sub-Committee on cost and price structure of soda ash is only composed of Government officials who are concerned with the subject and are members of the High Powered Committee. The Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, is invited to attend meetings of the Sub-Committee, and therefore it was not considered necessary to include any member of the Small Industries Association in the Committee, particularly since there is no representative of either the manufacturers or the other user in the Sub-Committee.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shortage of soda ash

751. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Silicate Manufacturers' Association made

a representation to Government in May, 1978 by a memorandum on shortage psychosis created by producers of soda ash;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have admitted the short supply of soda ash from early 1978 to middle of 1980;

(c) what was the opening stock, production, import, total availability of and demand for silicate in 1978, 1979 and 1980; and

(d) whether it is a fact that availability was more than demand during this period as per the statistics furnished to Government by All India Silicate Manufacturers' Association?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. The indigenous production of Soda Ash during these years was short of demand.

(c) and (d) The information relating to opening stock, production, import, total availability and demand of Soda Ash, including that for silicate for the requisite period, is given in the annexed Statement. It would be noted therefrom that, as stated in reply to Part (b) above, the indigenous production of Soda Ash was short of demand during the relevant period.

Statement

Production, Imports Estimated Demand, Total Availability of Soda Ash During 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81

(Figures in lakh Tonnes)

Year	Estimated Demand	Production	Imports	Total Availability
1978-79	6.00	5.81	0.234	6.044
1979-80	6.20	5.56	1.35	6.91
1980-81	6.30	5.63	1.16	6.79

TOTAL OPENING STOCKS OF SODA ASH

(Qty. in tonnes)

As on 1st Jan., 1978	40,283
As on 1st Jan., 1979	14,498,530
As on 1st Jan., 1980	18,669,770