

Low productivity of soda ash by M/s. Tata Chemicals Limited during scarcity period

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

(a) whether Government have enquired into the allegation of consumers that during the scarcity period M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd., slow down production of soda ash to earn extra profits; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) and (b) The production of Soda Ash by M/s. Tata Chemicals during the last five years was:—

Year	Quantity (in '000 tonnes)
1979-80	299.26
1980-81	330.62
1981-82	383.22
1982-83	378.73
1983-84	459.66

It would be noted from the above figures that the production of Soda Ash by M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd. has generally shown a rising trend on an annual basis.

Misuse of Medical facilities in ONGC

753. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission incurs huge expenditure on medical expenses for its staff each year mainly due to wrong policies in which medical facilities are grossly misused;

(b) if so, what is the amount spent by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission on this account during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps have been taken to stop the misuse of medical facilities in the Oil and Natural Gas Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM (SHRI GARGI SHANKER MISHRA): (a) and (b) Detailed investigations carried out recently have not revealed any serious misuse of medical facilities in the Oil & Natural Gas Commission

The expenditure incurred by the Oil & Natural Gas Commission on the medical facilities of their employees during the last three years is given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. lakhs)
1982-83.. . . .	379.08
1981-82	313.27
1980-81.. . . .	261.07

The increase in expenditure is mainly because of the large increase in the number of beneficiaries of the ONGC medical Scheme and increase in the cost of medicines and services.

(c) Does not arise.

Prosecution of senior officers of CIL.

754. SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI M. KALYANA-SUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether individual senior officers of Coal India Limited who were prosecuted and convicted for gross violation of Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act have paid fines imposed by courts out of their own income or the fines have been paid by the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries;

(b) if the fines were paid by coal India Limited, what are the reasons therefor;