

**Well head price of Crude**

"X1444. SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the well-head price of crude has been raised from July, 1981;

(b) and (c) According to Oilfields been revised accordingly; and

(c) what are the criteria for fixing the royalty on crude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, the rate of royalty is not to exceed 20 per cent of the sale price of the mineral oil at the oilfields or the oil well-head as the case may be. The rate of royalty in respect of any mineral oil cannot be enhanced more than once during any period of 4 years.

The rate of royalty was enhanced from Rs. 42/- per metric tonne to Rs. 61/- per metric tonne with effect from 1-4-1981. However, the question of enhancing the rate of royalty is under active consideration of the Government at present.

**Uniformity of wages for bidi workers**

1445. DR. BHAI MAHAVTR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to have uniformity of wages for workers employed in bidi industries in various States;

(b) whether any decision was taken in this regard either in the Labour Ministers' Conference or otherwise; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMA VIR): (a) to (c) At a meeting of some State

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Labour Ministers' held in September, 1981, it was recommended that all the State Governments should take immediate steps to revise the minimum wages for the employment in the bidi industry between Rs. 7 and Rs. 8 per day to be effective by 1-1-1982. This recommendation has been implemented by almost all the State Governments. A statement indicating the prevailing rates of wages prescribed by the various States Governments in the employment in bidi industry is appended. [*Vide* Statement in answer to Unstarred Question 1422 (b), cols.. 137-38 *supra*]

**Soda Ash Demand by Small Scale sector**

1446. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated demand of soda ash for the small scale sector during 1982-83;

(b) out of the total demand of the small scale sector, what will be the estimated consumption of sodium silicate, detergents, by dhobies, household cooperatives;

(c) whether the demand of soda ash for the small scale sector is expected to increase during the current year as compared to the previous year; and

(d) if so, what is the estimated percentage increase thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) and (b) The Working Group on Inorganic Chemicals has estimated the demand for soda ash for 1982-83 as 7.30 lakh tonnes. The demand is inclusive of the requirements of all types of consumers including small scale industries and small users. No separate estimates for sodium silicate, detergents, dhobies, household cooperatives etc. have been made.

(c) and (d) The estimated all inclusive demand for soda ash in 1981-82 was 6.80 lakh tonnes. The demand for 1982-83 is estimated as 7.30 lakh tonnes on the basis of an average growth rate of 7 per cent.