

Saving in Petrol Consumption

1413. SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase present 80 octain petrol to 90 or 93 octain, the latter (93 octain) being the world standard and thus save 15 per cent to 20 per cent petrol consumption and consequent precious foreign exchange; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) Yes Sir. The proposal is to increase the present .83 Octain petrol to 87 by which a saving of 3 to 5 per cent in the consumption of petrol is anticipated.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Nutrients

1414. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cut-down the slated imports to nine lakh tonnes of nutrients because of the present glut in the domestic market; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). It is not clear as to which nutrients are being referred to. A reply can be given only when this is specified.

High Price of Indian Soda Ash

1415. SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Indian soda ash are 400 per cent more than those in the international market;

2037 RS.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the market price of soda ash in Calcutta has recently jumped from Rs. 2000 per tonne to Rs. 3000 per tonne approximately; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the measures Government propose to take to check the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) Import prices of soda ash vary from consignment to consignment depending upon the country of origin and the volume of consignment. The international c.i.f. price of soda ash is reported to be around US dollars 180 per tonne. The indigenous manufacturers ex-works prices of Soda ash are now in the range of Rs 2263.14 to Rs. 2396.46 per tonne.

(b) Government have not received any concrete report regarding the increase in the open market price of soda ash in Calcutta in recent months.

(c) Does not arise.

Enquiry into Topa Colliery Disaster

1416. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from a Member of Parliament dated 30th December, 1982 regarding delay in starting the work of the Court of Enquiry into TOPA colliery disaster and roof fall in Sarubera colliery;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Court of Enquiry has stalled its work and if so, since when and how many sittings have taken place so far;

(d) whether evidence has started and if so, since when and when it is likely to complete its work;

(e) if the answers to parts (c) and (d) above be in the negative what are the reasons for delay;

(f) what are the findings of D.G.M.S. regarding accident at Sarubera colliery and details thereof including names of person*