

(e) whether Government have pinpointed the responsibility of this bungling; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMA CHANDRA RATH): (a) 28th June, 1982.

(b) The All India Silicate Manufacturers' Association (AISMA) had offered to take the stock from State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India (now Chemical Division of State Trading Corporation of India) but the prices and other terms and conditions offered by AISMA were not acceptable to STC. The revised price was communicated to the STC by the Government on 28th June, 1982. The STC notified tenders in the second week of July, 1982.

(c) 28th June, 1982.

(d) Upto March, 1982 an expenditure of Rs. 51.31 lakh was incurred on godown rent, interest, insurance and administrative expenses.

(e) and (f). The decision to import soda ash through STC was taken with a view to augmenting the availability of soda ash.

#### Creation of artificial scarcity of soda ash

486. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:

SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Telegraph, Calcutta, dated the 2nd September, 1982 to the effect that Tata Chemicals had halved its output of soda ash;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is not an attempt to bring about an artificial scarcity of the article; and

(d) whether Government have advised the producers to reduce their prices to March, 1979 level and produce to full capacity so that imports are rendered unnecessary?

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

(b) The total production of Soda Ash by M/s. Tata Chemicals Limited during the period from January to August, 1982 was 2,41,557 tonnes as against 2,58,726 tonnes in the corresponding period of 1981. The production of the period from January to August, 1982 is 17,169 tonnes less than that of the corresponding period of 1981.

(c) This Ministry have not received any complaint/report about shortage of soda ash. There is no scarcity of soda ash due to both indigenous production and its import under Open General Licence.

(d) No, Sir.

#### Production of household remedies by foreign companies

487. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2524 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th August, 1982 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken to restrict the foreign companies production for household remedies upto the licensed capacities and what is the connection between Regularisation and non-implementation of the decision of the New Drug Policy approved by Government;

(b) whether there is a prohibition on expansion or regularisation of capacities of household remedies in New Drug Policy for foreign companies; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to implement the decision of Government?