

(b) (i) The ex-factory basic selling price of Soda Ash has been given in Annexure. [See Appendix CXVI, Annexure No. 135.]

(ii) As there is no export of the item Soda Ash, the question of F.O.B. price does not arise.

(c) There is no statutory control over the price of Soda Ash. The price is fixed by the manufacturers themselves.

(d) Under Section 18G and Section 25 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Central Government can, by a notification, control the price at which any article or class thereof may be bought or sold. Unless the price is so notified there is no bar to the manufacturers raising the price of the product manufactured.

(e) The reasons for the price rise are reported to be higher costs of transportation and of inputs like coal, coke, salt, limestone, liquid ammonia and power.

Issue of gas connection in Delhi

2184. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the number of domestic gas connections issued in Delhi from April to November, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): The number of domestic gas connection issued in Delhi from April to November, 1980 is approximately 2000.

Exploration of oil and gas in Brahmaputra Valley

2185. SHRI SYED ABDUL MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bed of the Brahmaputra river contains big deposits of oil and natural gas;

(b) whether Government propose to conduct a survey for exploring oil and natural gas in the Brahmaputra valley; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) ONGC has not so far found any indication that the bed of the Brahmaputra river contains big deposits of oil and natural gas.

(b) ONGC has been conducting surveys for exploring oil and natural gas in the Brahmaputra valley since 1957. These are proposed to be continued.

(c) So far about 70 party years of seismic surveys and 15 party years of gravity magnetic surveys have been carried out resulting the discovery of oil and gas in six structures, viz. Rudrasagar, Lakwa-Lakhmani, Galeki, Borholla, Amguri, Charali and Demulgaon. Some of the structures mapped by earlier surveys are under exploratory drilling at present.

Shortage of Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene in Arunachal Pradesh

2186. SHRI RATAN TAMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of petrol, diesel and kerosene oil in Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what immediate steps are proposed to be taken by Government to make petrol, diesel and kerosene oil available in Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The availability of Motor Spirit (Petrol) and kerosene in Arunachal Pradesh is currently fairly satisfactory. However, in the case of High Speed Diesel oil, the overall supplies have been lower

than the allocation on account of the disruption in supplies caused by the current agitation in Assam.

(b) Steps were taken following the agitation in Assam from end October 1980 to maximise movement of petroleum products by rail to depots feeding Arunachal Pradesh. The situation is being monitored on a day-to-day basis for ensuring adequate availability of the product for meeting the essential requirements of Arunachal Pradesh.

Coal deposits in North Cachar Hills in Assam

2187. SHRI SYED ABDUL MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal deposits in the Garampani Tumbling Basti of the North Cachar Hills in Assam are likely to go under water when the 'Kopili' Hydroelectric Project starts operation in 1982:

(b) whether any arrangements have been made so far to extract coal from this coal area;

(c) whether Government of Assam have made any request to the Central Government to arrange for the excavation of the coal from the area; and

(d) what action has been taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Discontinuous thin stretches and bands of coal occur near the Yelle Fall Site on the bank of the river Kopili near Garampani. According to the information received from the Government of Assam, the said area falls within the proposed reservoir of the Kopili Hydel Project which is in progress and as such will be inundated by the reservoir water in course of time. The project is scheduled to be commissioned in 1982.

(b) to (d) The Government of Assam have informed that a few parties have been allowed by them to extract coal on payment of royalty to the State Government. They have recently sought Central Governments ex-post-facto approval for the same which is, at present, under examination.

Annual General Meeting of Swadeshi Cotton Mills Co. Ltd.

2188. SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 59th Annual General meeting of Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Limited was held at Kanpur on the 15th November, 1980;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only one Director of the Company was present and no accounts were presented at the said meeting; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take for this serious lapse on the part of the company under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Twenty five Members including one Director attended the meeting in person and 136 members were present by proxy. The annual accounts have not been presented since 1978 and onwards. Default notices under Sections 159, 220, 210 etc. of the Companies Act, 1956 have been issued to the company and action as warranted will be taken on receipt of its reply.

Directors of the Board of Swadeshi Cotton Mills Co. Ltd.

2189. SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: