

(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