

Salt production in Orissa

672. SHRI B. C. MAHANTI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent of the total licensed area of about 3000 acres under salt manufacture, in the Eastern Region of India falls within the territory of Orissa;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the average production of salt per acre in Orissa is 11.2 M.T. as against the All India average production of 35 M.T.;

(c) whether thus low production of salt in Orissa is due to lack of supervision; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to appoint an officer of the status of Assistant Salt Commissioner there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. F. MAUR-YA): (a) Out of the total licensed area of 9662 acres under salt production in the States of Orissa and West Bengal, the licensed area in the Orissa State is 7295 acres, which works out to about 75%.

(b) The average annual production of salt in Orissa is 10-12 tonnes per acre as against the All India average of 25 m. tonnes per annum.

(c) No, Sir. The low production in Orissa is attributable primarily to unfavourable climatic factors such as heavy rain fall resulting in short manufacturing season.

(d) Does not arise.

Extensive Deposit of Heavy Mineral on the beach sand near Gopalpur-Chhatrapur Coast

673. SHRI B. C. MAHANTI: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the survey conducted by the Atomic Mineral Division of the Department of Atomic Energy indicated extensive deposit of heavy minerals on the beach sand near Gopalpur-Chhatrapur coast, and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Messrs. Indian Rare Earth Ltd. have proposed to set up a synthetic Rutile Plant and a Zircon Chemical Plant near Gopalpur?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The industrial complex based on beach sands along Gopalpur-Chhatrapur coast in Orissa, proposed to be set up by Indian Rare Earths Limited, also includes a synthetic rutile plant and a zirconium chemicals plant.

Corruption charges against the assistant sub-inspector of police

674. SHRI BEZWADA PAPIRED-DI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation containing certain charges of corruption and bribery against the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police attached with the Police Station of Lodhi Colony, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are details thereof;

(c) whether Government have instituted any enquiries in the matter; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) to (d) A Complaint was received from Vice President of Scheduled Caste (Khatik) Market Association, Tibba Subzi Market, Lodhi Road, against a Sub-Inspector of Police Station Lodhi Colony wherein it was alleged that the police officer had been taking fruits, vegetables, ghee and other articles from the complainant without making payment. When the Complainant refused to supply the articles without payment he was threatened. Enquiries were conducted but the allegations could not be substantiated.