

(a) whether it is a fact that the soil of certain districts of Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh is deficient in Zinc;

(b) if so, whether any survey of this deficiency has been undertaken by Government; and

(c) the measures proposed to rectify the deficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAH P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the All India Coordinated Scheme on Micro-Nutrients in soils Indian Council of Agricultural Research has carried out studies to locate the zinc deficient areas in various States. This is also being done through the soil testing programme of the State Governments.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture has been advising the State Governments to apply zinc sulphate in zinc deficient areas for getting maximum returns from fertiliser application. The State Governments have also been asked to make available sufficient quantities of zinc sulphate to the farmers at the fertiliser depots. The zinc sulphate industry has been asked to increase production in their factories to meet the demand of the State. Necessary steps are being taken to coordinate the supply of zinc ash to the zinc sulphate manufacturers.

Haldia Port

557. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Haldia port has of late suffered a serious set-back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the port will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) to (c) The construction work of Haldia Dock has suffered set-backs in the past due to non-availability of the required matching

steel, wagons for transporting construction material to worksite, labour unrest and long spells of monsoon during 1970 and 1971. However, the work has not suffered any serious set-backs in the recent past and problems that arise are sorted out as best as possible. All efforts are made to complete the Haldia Dock Project by the middle of 1974.

Loss of Crores of Rupees by C.M.D.A.

558. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Standard' of September 10, 1973 to the effect that C.M.D.A. had been losing crores of rupees;

(b) if so, what are the details of the loss, and what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of the C.M.D.A., and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes. But the allegations made in the news item are vague. The C.M.D.A. have reported that there are no cases of any such losses due to lack of supervision or lack of maintenance. In certain cases, some works under execution were left unfinished because of the advent of the rainy season, to be taken up for completion later on the commencement of the working season.

(c) The C.M.D.A. have effected considerable improvement in their performance. It has been reported that co-ordination meetings with the various implementing agencies are held regularly in order to ensure that the schemes under different sectors are executed wherever necessary, in a coordinated manner so as to obviate delay in execution and avoid wasteful expenditure. It has been decided by C.M.D.A. to take over by themselves all important schemes under Sewerage, Drainage, Water Supply for direct execution. Action for