

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign cars have been imported for the use of Directors and other officials of the State Trading Corporation during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the number of such cars and the reasons for procuring imported cars for the use of officials ; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on their maintenance during the last one year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### DEMAND AND PRODUCTION OF SULPHURIC ACID

439. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE :

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

(a) the demand and production of sulphuric acid in the country, during 1970-71, 1971-72 and the estimates for 1972-73 ;

(b) the details of the projects under implementation and those to be taken up under the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(c) the areas which are considered suitable for pyritebased sulphuric acid plants, and the extent of availability of pyrite ores in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) Production of Sulphuric Acid during the years 1970-71, 1971-72 and production estimated during 1972-73 are as follows :—

Year	Production (tonnes)
1979-71 . . .	12,00,000
1971-72 . . .	12,30,000 (Estimated)
1972-73 . . .	15,00,000 (Estimated)

Sulphuric Acid is a basic chemical which is used in the manufacture of phos-phatic fertilizers and in processing industries like Iron and Steel, rayon, titanium dioxide, etc. The production of sulphuric acid is regulated by demand therefor from the user industries.

(b) Details of sulphuric acid projects under implementation during the IVth Five Year Plan are given below :

Name of Project	Capacity of Sulphuric Acid (per annum) (Tonnes)
(1) Travancore Titanium Products, Trivendrum Expansion.	74,470
(2) Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co. Ltd, Bombay	3,30,000
(3) Kheiri Copper Project	1,82,000
(4) Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.	2,75,000
(5) Indian Copper Corporation, Ghatsila	54,000
(6) Travancore Titanium Products Ltd.	1,35,000
(7) Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation, Tuticorin	1,50,000
(8) Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	1,32,000

(c) Pyrites deposits have been located at Amjhore (Bihar) and Saladipura (Raj-asthan). The reserves of pyrites ore at the two places are estimated at 385 million tonnes and 100 million tonnes respectively. One sulphuric acid plant based on Amjhore pyrites is working at Sindri and another plant is under erection. As regards Saladipura deposits, feasibility studies are being conducted.