

has been decreasing from 1957-58 and 1958-59 respectively;

(b) whether it is a fact that clin-kering trouble affecting production of gas at Sindri started after 1954 and has been increasing for the last five years affecting not only the output but also the life of the generators; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take action against those responsible for allowing the plant to deteriorate?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) There has been decrease in production of ammonium sulphate and ammonia, gas and coke in Sindri Fertilizer Factory during 1959-60 as compared to 1957-58 and 1958-59 as may be seen from the figures given below: —

Year		Ammonium Sulphate	Ammonia	Gas		Coke
				Raw	Converted	
		(Tons)	(Tons)	(M. cu. ft.)		(Tons)
1957-58	.	3,32,031	96,144	11,830	15,379	2,29,013
1958-59	.	3,30,122	94,151	11,339	14,659	2,28,596
1959-60	.	2,85,248	72,631	9,186	11,428	2,24,332

(b) It is true that clinkering troubles started after October, 1954 when coke produced at the Coke Oven Plant installed at Sindri began to be used in the Gas Generators. The intention in putting up the Coke Oven Plant was to make use of slightly inferior coals instead of metallurgical coals. The Coke produced at the Plant, though hard end dense, clin-kered in the generators creating mechanical troubles. These troubles further increased after the installation of the Expansion Plants, when high volatile coals had to be used to maintain the gas reformer plant at a proper level of production. With a view to bring out a compromise between the requirements of the Gas Generators and those of the Expansion Plants, the Sindri Management conducted tests during the period 1955 to 1957 using cokes made from different blends of coals. As a result of these tests, a particular composition of various grades of coal was determined as most suitable. This included certain quantities of metallurgical coals. So long as regular supplies of the different grades of coal

were available, the clinkering troubles were reduced to the minimum. The supply of metallurgical coals was, however, stopped in November, 1958 when these were diverted to the Steel Plants. The coals supplied in lieu did not produce coke of the required quality with the result that production of gas was seriously affected. The supplies of good quality coal were resumed in February, 1960. The improvement was however not satisfactory because in the meantime the mechanical condition of the generators had deteriorated by the continued use of coke made from inferior coals. It was found that without overhauling the generators, better results could not be achieved. Steps have, therefore, been taken to overhaul the generators.

(c) The fall in output and the deficiencies in the plant, it will be seen, cannot be ascribed to lapses on the part of individuals; these have stemmed from difficulties of a technical nature, which are being dealt with to the best of Management's ability.