

produced by IPCL is comparatively higher than the imported one; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Loss to CIL

7475. SHRI RABIRAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has suffered heavy loss as a result of economic blockade by some political activities during the last week of March 1992; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYABAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Artificial Rain

7476. SHRI M.G. REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are working on a proposal of increasing rainfall through seeding of clouds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Progress made so far include seeding experiments carried out by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, suggest that rain enhancement is possible under certain conditions of cloud thickness greater than 1 kilometer and cloud liquid water content more than 0.5 gram per cubic meter.

[*Translation*]

Royalty on Salt to Gujarat

7477. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received by the Gujarat Government from the Union Government in terms of royalty on salt during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the royalty rates; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The State Government of Gujarat collects royalty directly from salt manufactures in respect of the lands leased out by it for salt manufacture. The information is, therefore, not centrally maintained.

Sick Units in U.P.

7478. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick units in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to revive these units by giving them assistance; and