

other consumers. ONGC and OIL have been asked to meet future growth in demand by supplying gas to more consumers, wherever feasible.

#### **Increase in Price of Soda Ash**

2087. SHRI R.M. BHOYE :

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the instances of indigenous manufacturers of soda ash raising their prices without justification for doing so ;

(b) if so, whether Government have urged the manufacturers to keep the price of soda ash at the minimum possible in the interest of users who are mainly in the small sector; and

(c) what other steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c). There is no statutory control on the price of soda ash. However, Government has received representations regarding unjustified increase in the price of Soda Ash by indigenous manufacturers. A High Powered Committee has been constituted to go into various problems including the price aspect of the soda ash industry. Further, duty on import of soda ash, which is under Open General Licence (OGL) has been reduced.

#### **Bifurcation of Jeypore (k) Postal Division to Orissa**

2088. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Orissa Circle has proposed to bifurcate the Jeypore (K) Postal Division and have a Junior Postal Division at Rayagada ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether the decision will be taken to open the new Junior Postal Division at Rayagada during the year 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

#### **Diversification Programme taken up by Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd**

2089. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers' union of M/s Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. had suggested diversification by starting manufacture of brakes for Railways, Valve Actuators, LPG cylinders, etc.

(b) whether any diversification programme was at all taken up by M/s B. B. V. L. after nationalisation and, if so, the fate of such programme with analysis of the reasons; and

(c) whether there are any plans to take up any programme of diversification in M/s. B. B. V. L. and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) In order to reduce dependence on a single customer viz. Railways, M/s. Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. has entered into diversified product lines as a corporate policy. However, suggestions for diversification into certain lines were also received from Bharat Brakes and Valves Mazdoor Union.

(b) Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. has diversified into new product lines such as Turn Key project for Fluid Handling System, Vertical Turbine Pump, LPG Cylinder, Industrial Valves and Air Brakes since nationalisation.