

(a) whether Government are considering to set up solar thermal power generators in rural areas:

(b) whether any study has been conducted and report received by Government on the economy and advantages of utilising solar energy for thermal purposes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) One solar thermal power generator for R and D purposes is under installation in a village in Andhra Pradesh and another is planned in a village in Uttar Pradesh. The techno-economic feasibility of larger solar thermal power units is being examined.

(b) and (c). Several applications of solar energy for thermal purposes are already in operation. These include Solar water heating systems, Solar timber kilns, Solar crop driers, Solar Cookers, Solar desalination units etc. According to some studies these applications for low and medium temperature needs are economical if overall costs are considered. They also have the advantages of causing no pollution and very low recurring costs.

Distribution of Soda Ash

4283. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd. account for about 60% of country's soda ash production;

(b) whether over 50 per cent of its production is going to the Western Zone;

(c) whether consumers from other regions have complained of regional disparity in distribution of soda ash; and

(d) whether Government are putting forward a scheme to minimise disparity in regional distribution of soda ash ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d), Inadequate supply of Soda Ash to the Eastern region was one of the points discussed in a meeting of the Sub-Committee on Monitoring of supplies of Soda Ash held in August, 1985. Currently the supply position in all regions is satisfactory. Government has also already issued detailed guidelines for distribution of Soda Ash. One of the terms of reference of the High Powered Committee on Soda Ash relates to, *inter-alia*, distribution of Soda Ash.

[Translation]

Compensation to Land Owners for Acquisition of Land for Tanda Thermal Project in Faizabad District, U.P.

4284. SHRI R. P. SUMAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of land acquired by Government for Tanda Thermal Project in Faizabad district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether all the land owners have been paid compensation for the land so acquired;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total amount of compensation still to be paid indicating the number of persons who are to be paid compensation;

(e) whether Government have a policy to provide employment to one person of each family of farmers/persons affected by the project according to their qualifications;

(f) if so, the category-wise total number of persons provided employment in the project so far; and

(g) the number of persons, among them, who belong to the affected families ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (g). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.