

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Crisis in Sodium Dichromate Plants**

1044. **SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Sodium Dichromate Plants are facing crisis due to shortage of raw material;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) steps taken by Government to remove the crisis;

(d) what is the allocation of the raw materials for each State; and

(e) the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL):** (a) Yes, Sir. Out of the three main raw-materials viz. Soda Ash, Chromite Ore and Sulphuric Acid, representations have been received from some manufacturers of Sodium Dichromates regarding the shortage of Soda Ash. No representations have been received regarding the shortage of other raw-materials.

(b) Soda Ash which was freely available in the country till end of 1977, has been in short supply since then. The main reason for the shortage of this chemical in the country is that the indigenous production has not kept pace with the rise in demand for this item. The existing manufacturers have also been unable to increase their production due to constraints on the availability and movement of coal and coke.

(c) There is no statutory control over the distribution and prices of Soda Ash. Nevertheless the Government have issued guidelines to all the manufacturers of Soda Ash which ensure that all industrial consumers who were taking the material direct

from the manufacturers continue to get the quantity they got in 1977, a year of normal supply. As a result a little more than 80 per cent of the Soda Ash produced locally is going direct to industrial consumers (including Sodium Dichromate manufacturers) at the manufacturers price. There is also constant monitoring in Government of the supply being made by the manufacturers. A quantity of about 20,000 tonnes has been imported by the State Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd., New Delhi (CPC) and distributed through State Government agencies to the Small Scale Sector. Apart from this, Soda Ash import is on open general licence for actual users under which any actual user of Soda Ash can import this chemical directly should he find it difficult to procure the same locally.

(d) Since there is no statutory control over the distribution of the raw-materials the question of allocation of these to the States by the Central Government does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Shifting of Head Offices of M/s. NFL, RCF, FPDIL and FCI**

1045. **SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state whether he is aware that as per the recommendations by the High Court Working Group the Head Offices of M/s. RCF, M/s. NFL, M/s. FPDIL and M/s. FCI were shifted to Bombay/Delhi, Delhi/Sindri, Delhi/Patna respectively except the Head Office of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Limited (HFCL) which is yet to be shifted from Delhi to Calcutta?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL):** The reorganisation of the FCI and NFL w.e.f. 1.4.1978 has resulted in the formation of five Companies viz. BCF with its headquarters at Bombay, FPDIL with