

(a) and (b). There is no statutory control on the prices of Soda Ash. It is, therefore, not feasible to limit the profitability of the manufacturers of Soda Ash at a particular level.

(c) and (d). Government had asked the BICP to go into the cost structure of the indigenous soda ash industry and make suitable recommendations. The BICP has submitted its report to the Government wherein it has, inter-alia, recommended that to stabilise internal prices, it is necessary to continue with imports as long as the indigenous production does not match the demand and import tariff should be calibrated in such a manner that the landed price more or less matches the existing indigenous price. The retail prices of Soda Ash have, however, been showing declining trend since the import has been permitted with reduced customs duty.

Concessions to small scale industries controlled by large/medium units

2582. SHRI D. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had issued a press note in March, 1985 stating that small scale industries controlled by medium/large scale units are not really small scale units and they would not be eligible for the special concessions/incentives available under various schemes for the promotion and protection of the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the criteria for identifying the units that are controlled by large and medium scale units; and

(c) how many such units had been identified by the State Governments and how many of them have been asked to deregister from the small scale sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The small scale industrial undertakings which are 'subsidiary of' or 'owned' or 'controlled' by any other undertaking are not eligible for the special concessions and incentives.

(c) Registration/deregistration of small scale undertakings is within the purview of State Governments. This information is not maintained by the Government.

Award of contracts for onshore oil drilling

2583. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian companies have lost interest in taking up onshore drilling contracts for Oil and Natural Gas Commission judged by the limited response to recent tenders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the onshore areas advertised for oil drilling and names of the foreign companies interested in onshore oil drilling; and

(d) the manner in which these drilling contracts are proposed to be awarded to ensure that no delay hampers this vital project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (d). Certain offshore areas have been advertised for oil exploration and exploitation by foreign oil companies. No such advertisement has been made for onshore areas to be explored either by Indian companies or by foreign companies.

Working of public enterprises

2584. SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken in recent months to make public enterprises result-oriented and profit earning; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?