

Stone Cancer Afflicting Taj Mahal

205 SHRI G S TOHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a newspaper report that appeared in the *Times of India* of June 8, 1979 that the Stone Cancer afflicting Taj Mahal is showing sure signs of proliferation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It was stated, in the Press Report that the stone cancer afflicting Taj Mahal is showing some signs of proliferation and that recent findings are clear on the existing level of pollution caused by the local foundries, railway shunting yard and the thermal power stations to the Taj Mahal. Government are keenly aware of the possible danger posed to the Taj Mahal by gaseous pollutants emitted by the industrial units, power plants and Railway marshalling yard in and around Agra.

Government had appointed a Committee of Experts to go into the likely impact on the Taj of the Mathura Refinery, and guide the Refinery project authorities in planning and implementing effective pollution control measures. The report of the Committee has already been placed before the House. Apart from a number of anti pollution measures to be adopted by the Mathura Refinery, the Committee has also made certain recommendations such as relocation of certain industries presently located in Agra, phasing out the thermal power plants, replacement of coal fired locomotives by diesel locomotives in the marshalling yard etc at Agra. Government's decision on the Report of

the Committee is expected to be taken shortly.

The Government are determined to do all in their power to protect this great monument from suffering any damage due to industrial pollution, irrespective of the cost entailed.

Irregularities with regard to distribution of Steel by Stockyards

206 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether some irregularities with regard to distribution of steel by the Stockyards at various places including one at Bhopal during last one year were brought to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA) (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Instructions to Ministries to curtail consumption of Petrol

207 SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have issued any instructions to curtail the consumption of petrol in the Ministries; and

(b) if so, monthly consumption of petrol in the various Ministries of the Central Government during Jan.-March and April-June, 1979?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA). (a) Yes, Sir.