

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.

(b) The requisite information is being collected from the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Memo. by CIV Canteen Employees Union, Ahmadnagar

208. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the CIV Civilian Employees' Union, Ahmadnagar (Maharashtra) in November, 1977 and March, 1979 demanding the revision of pay scales of clerical cadre by drawing attention of Government to the anomaly in pay fixation in Third Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the exact demands made in the memorandum; and

(c) what action Government have taken so far or propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (c). Although these memoranda have not been received by the Government, the Union has been representing to the Controller of Inspection (Vehicles), Ahmednagar as well as the Director General of Inspection about some anomalies in the scales of pay of clerical cadres which are based on the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. The matter also figured in the last meeting of the JCM III of the DGI held in May, 1979. Since the problem is not peculiar to the Directorate General of Inspection and relates to other Departments of the Government as well, the Union and the staff side of the JCM III have been advised by the DGI to take up the matter, if so desired, in the National Council of the JCM.

Setting up of Port Based Steel Plant at Paradip, Orissa

209. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by his Ministry to establish a port based steel plant at Paradip, Orissa;

(b) initiative taken by Government of Orissa so far for early starting of the plant at Paradip;

(c) the main features of the project report and decision taken by the Government of India on the report; and

(d) when the investment decision is likely to be taken by his Ministry on this proposed steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) As part of the overall development programme for enhancement of the capacity in the steel industry, Government have been considering the feasibility of setting up port based steel plants, one possible site being Paradeep. A study has been commissioned by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to compute the comparative input costs for the different port locations. Simultaneously, discussions are also being held with interested foreign parties for financial assistance for the setting up of port-based steel plants.

(b) In a recent communication to the Union Minister of Steel and Mines, Chief Minister of Orissa has *inter alia* confirmed the availability of about 11,000 acres of land in Paradeep for the setting up of the steel plant and also drawn attention to the already developed infrastructure in the form of adequate rail, road and port facilities, easy availability of water and power etc. at and around Paradeep.

(c) No project report has yet been commissioned.

(d) Any investment decision on the setting up of the second port based steel plant will have to be based on techno-economic considerations and can