

6.20 lakh tonnes in 1979-80 and 6.30 lakh tonnes in 1980-81. The production of soda ash was 5.56 lakh tonnes in 1979-80 and 5.63 lakh tonnes in 1980-81. Imports of soda ash were 1.35 lakh tonnes in 1979-80 and 0.53 lakh tonnes in 1980-81 (upto October, 1980).

The import statistics are compiled and published by the Director General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. There is usually a time lag in compilation and publication of the statistics. Statistics for the period subsequent to October, 1980 are yet to be published. Once these statistics are compiled, they will be published in the Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Volume-II, copies of which will be available in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c). As on 1-1-1980, the manufacturers' ex-works prices of soda ash were in the range of Rs. 1718.24 to Rs. 1899.04 per tonne. As on 31-12-1981, these prices were in the range of Rs. 2050.35 to Rs. 2299.25 per tonne. The manufacturers have attributed the increase in the prices of soda ash to increases in the cost of raw materials, utilities and transport.

There is no statutory control over the pricing and distribution of soda ash. Soda ash was in short supply in the years 1978, 1979 and early 1980. As a result of the measures taken by the Government, the availability is very comfortable. The open market price of soda ash which was as high as Rs. 3600 per tonne in late 1978 and which was ruling as high as Rs. 3000 per tonne for over a year has declined to Rs. 2100 to Rs. 2400 per tonne.

Under the guidelines issued in January, 1979, the manufacturers are to supply direct to industrial consumers atleast the quantity received by them during the calendar year 1977, a year of normal supply. Government have also prevailed upon the manufacturers to supply about 1200 tonnes of soda ash per month to the National Cooperative Consumers Federation Limited (NCCF) for distribution through their retail outlets to small users like dhobies and housewives.

Setting up T.V. relay station at Mangalore in Karnataka

4748. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the cost involved in establishing a T.V. relay Station at Mangalore in Karnataka; and

(b) when will it be possible for Government to establish the relay station at Mangalore?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The present day estimated cost in establishing a T.V. Relay Centre is Rs. 200 lakhs.

(b) Mangalore has been identified for setting up TV Relay Centre with the help of P&T microwave link under a perspective plan for expansion of TV in the country over the next 20 years in four phases. Implementation of this plan will, however, depend upon availability of resources.

T.V. Centre for North-Eastern Region

4749. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 300 TV sets in Aizawal (Mizoram) alone and since there is no TV Station in the whole North-Eastern Region, the Dacca Centre comes in handy and Mizo people watch TV programme from Dacca;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the people are not well aware with the happenings in the Capital of India; and

(c) if so, do Government propose to take active steps for establishing a TV Centre in that area?