

Need of Cinema Halls in Small Towns

9679. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether considering the need of cinema halls in small and medium towns of Uttar Pradesh, the Centre has decided to help U.P. Chal Chitra Nigam financially;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of aid during 1981-82 and 1982-83;

(c) whether this kind of help is being rendered to other States; also and

(d) if so, the financial help given/being given to each State during 1981-82 and 1982-83?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHI) (a) THE National Film Development Corporation Limited, a public sector undertaking, has entered into an agreement with U.P. Chal Chitra Nigam for providing financial assistance for construction of cinema theatres.

(b) During 1981-82 the N.F.D.C. sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs to U.P. Chal Chitra Nigam for construction of two cinema houses. No loan has been given in 1982-83 so far.

(c) and (d). The loans sanctioned during the year 1981-82 for construction of cinema houses in various States are as under :—

Name of the State	Amount in lakhs	No. of Application
Tamil Nadu	18.00	3
Maharashtra	33.00	5
West Bengal	25.37	5
Andhra Pradesh	13.50	3

Madhya Pradesh	13.79	2
Orissa	7.50	1
Uttar Pradesh	21.70	4
Karnataka	6.90	1
Manipur	7.50	1

No loans have been given during 1982-83 so far.

Glut of Soda Ash

9680. SHRI AGIT BAG : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a glut of soda ash in the country and as much as 85,000 tonnes of soda ash is lying unsold with the indigenous producers;

(b) whether, in spite of this, about 10,000 tonnes of soda ash costing about Rs. 8 crores in foreign exchange is already in the pipeline;

(c) if so, how it could happen; and

(d) the thinking of Government to rectify the position ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) According to the manufacturers, the stocks of unsold soda ash, as on 1-4-1982, were about 1.03 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c). Soda ash is on Open General Licence (OGL). Hence it is not possible to ascertain readily the quantity of soda ash in the import pipeline.

(d) The manufacturers of soda ash have been representing that, because of large scale imports and poor off-take, stocks are accumulating and that, unless imports are banned, the industry would be badly