

(b) whether Government have made any plan to help the Integrated Steel Sector to build coal stocks and if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) The annual plan for 1983-84 as approved by the Planning Commission has fixed a target for production of 142 million tonnes of coal during the year. This includes 35.30 million tonnes of coking coal and 106.70 million tonnes of non-coking coal.

(b) Every effort is being made to meet the coking coal requirements of the steel plants. The coal stock which stood at 4.73 lakh tonnes as on 1.4.83 declined to a level of 1.66 lakh tonnes as on 1st August, 1983 due to constraints like shortage of power, law and order problems, in the eastern Region, increased absenteeism of the workers in the summer months etc. As a result of the various corrective measures taken by the Ministry, production of coal increased from August '83 onwards which resulted in increased supply of coking coal to steel plants. The steel plants are presently having a stock of 3.96 lakh tonnes of indigenous coal 40.21 lakh tonnes of imported coal.

Expansion of production of Soda Ash by M/s. Saurashtra Chemicals

4418. **SHRI AJIT BAG :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Saurashtra Chemicals had assured at the meetings of the Standing Committee on Soda Ash to complete the expansion of the production of Soda Ash by June, 1982 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the company informed Government in June, 1982 that they are unable to complete the balance expansion because of financial constraints and lack of demand ;

(c) how the company discovered lack of demand all of a sudden when the soda ash industry is not in a position to meet the country's demand ; and

(d) whether Government propose to make a probe into the affairs of the company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH) : (a) to (d) M/s. Saurashtra Chemicals, Porbandar, Gujarat was granted an industrial licence No. CIL : 158(76) dated 8.4.1976 for effecting substantial expansion in the capacity of manufacture of soda ash by 1.0 lakh tonnes per annum. The company implemented the expansion upto 62,000 tonnes per annum with effect from 1.5.1980 raising the installed capacity of the plant to 2,30,000 tonnes per annum. The balance capacity of 38,000 tonnes per annum, out of the expansion allowed, is yet to be implemented. While the company had earlier indicated the expected time for the implementation of the balance expansion as the middle of 1982, it later informed that the implementation of the balance expansion was linked to modernisation of the existing plant by adoption of new technology with a view to achieving higher efficiency and economy.

The Government has set up a High Powered Committee to go in detail into various aspects of the soda ash industry. The Committee is expected to go into matters related to augmentation of production/capacity.

Increase in the transmitting capacity of Darbhanga Station of AIR

4419. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been persistent demands for increasing the transmitting capacity of Mithila (Darbhanga) station

of the AIR for broadcasting of news bulletins in Maithili language and for more time for broadcasts in Maithili language including those at vast gatherings at Bisfi on 18 November, 1983 at Patna and elsewhere ;

(b) whether large scale arrests were made on 19 November, 1983 of persons voicing the above demands; and

(c) if so, details thereabout and Government's reaction to their demands ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (c) There have been demands for increasing the transmitting capacity of All India Radio station, Darbhanga and for broadcasting news bulletins in the Maithili language, in the past.

Darbhanga station has one transmitter of medium power of 10 KW MW. Due to constraints on resources, it has not been found possible to include any scheme for the upgrading the transmitter.

So far as Maithili news bulletins is concerned, the existing bulletins in Hindi have wide listening and they are understood by the Maithili speaking population. There is, therefore, no felt need to start a separate news bulletin in Maithili.

(b) The matter really concerns the local authorities in-charge of law and order in the State Government.

It is understood that on 19.11.1983 at about 11.30 A.M., a procession of about 200 persons came to A.I.R. station raising slogans about A.I.R. not broadcasting programmes in Maithili and for alleged anti-Maithili feelings and that the

Police took into custody about 25 persons.

Contracts for sweeping/cleaning etc.
jobs in IOC Pipelines
Head Office

4421. SHRI C. PALANIAPPAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation Pipeline Head Office has given contracts for sweeping/cleaning jobs to private agencies ;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving contracts ;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation has not blocked the employment opportunities for Scheduled Caste candidates by giving these contracts and whether it is not a set back to Prime Minister's 20-Point Programme ;

(d) the number of candidates presently working against sweeping/cleaning job in Indian Oil Corporation Pipeline Head Office New Delhi against permanent vacancies ;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(f) the number of other contracts like maintenance of Office/electricians/repairs given to private parties and the justifications for these contracts ;

(g) whether these contracts have been given as per procedure laid down by Indian Oil Corporation ; and

(h) whether these contracts do not encourage middle-man practice ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) to (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.