

(ख) इस मंत्रालय द्वारा जुलाई, 1970 में जारी किये गये प्रेस नोट के प्रत्युत्तर में प्राप्त अन्य आवेदन-पत्रों के साथ साथ इस आवेदन पत्र पर विचार किया जा रहा है।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Shortage of Soda Ash for Small Scale Industries

820. SHRI BIREN DUTTA :
SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE :

Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the small scale industries in India are facing a severe crisis owing to the scarcity of soda ash ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to give sufficient soda ash for the small scale industries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRALAYA MEM UP-MANTRI) (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Due to the shortage of soda ash that has recently developed in the country, the consumer industries including the small scale industries are experiencing difficulty in getting their requirements of this raw material.

(b) The following steps have been taken to meet the shortage :

(i) Existing units have been asked to increase production to the extent possible.

(ii) Imports of soda ash by the State Trading Corporation have been and are being arranged.

(iii) Applications for the establishment of additional capacity have been invited recently for ensuring more production.

Blackmarketing of Soda Ash in Calcutta

821. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE :
Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the blackmarketing of soda ash at a rate of Rs. 130 per bag of 75 kg. in Calcutta ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the recent rise in the selling prices of Soda Ash due to shortage in the availability of this commodity that has recently developed in the country.

(b) The following steps have been taken to meet the shortage :-

(i) Existing units have been asked to increase production to the extent possible.

(ii) Imports of soda ash by the State Trading Corporation have been and are being arranged.

(iii) Applications for the establishment of additional capacity have been invited recently by means of a Press Note for ensuring more production as a long-term solution.

Alleged Indulgence of Members of North Korean Consulate in Subversive Activities in India

822. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA :
SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRI) be pleased to state :