

**Short and Irregular Supply of Soda Ash to Glass Industry**

1772. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been complaints about inadequate supply of Soda Ash by glass factories :

(b) if so, the nature of complaints and the action taken thereon ; and

(c) whether any representation has been received from the All India Glass Manufacturers Federation about short and irregular supply of Soda Ash to Glass Industry and, if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c). Complaints about inadequate supply of Soda Ash from glass factories and representation from All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation have been received.

A meeting was held in Bombay on 25.11.70 between the representatives of Glass Industry and representatives of Alkali Manufacturers to discuss the problem of supply of Soda Ash to glass manufacturing units in the country. To meet the shortage in the availability of indigenous Soda Ash, it was suggested that some quantities of Soda Ash may be imported. The State Trading Corporation has already effected import of 10,000 tonnes of Soda Ash. Out of the first consignment of 5000 tonnes of heavy Soda Ash, 2000 tonnes have already been sold to the manufacturers of glass borne on the list of Directorate-General of Technical Development. 3000 tonnes have been sold to Small Scale users under the charge of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries. The distribution of the second consignment of 5000 tonnes is under way.

**Acute shortage of Kerosene Oil in Assam**

1773. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of Kerosene oil in Assam ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). Shortage of kerosene oil in the Assam region was felt for a very short period and was mainly due to disruption of rail communication due to breaches. The State Government of Assam was requested to exercise control over the distribution of the product till such time the rail transportation position was normalised. This short term shortage as per the advice received from the State Government, did not cause any inconvenience to the common people. The position is now normal.

**Imposition of Taxes on Newly Rich Farmers**

1774. SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any agreement amongst the Chief Ministers regarding the imposition of taxes on the newly rich farmers ; and

(b) if so, what is the definition of the 'newly-rich' farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b). At the Conference of Governors/Chief Ministers which was held on the 12th October, 1971, there was a general consensus regarding the need to raise adequate resources from the more affluent sections of the rural population. The Conference did not go into any details regarding the basis or criteria to be adopted for taxation of income from agriculture.

**515 आर्मी वेस वर्कशाप, बंगलौर के कर्मचारियों की शिकायतें**

1777. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बंगलौर स्थित 515 आर्मी वेस वर्कशाप के कर्मचारियों ने अपनी कठिनाइयों के संबंध में सितम्बर 1969 में सरकार को एक ज्ञापन भेजा था ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कर्मचारियों की शिकायतें क्या हैं और इस संबंध में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय (रक्षा उत्पादन) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल) : (क) और (ख). सितम्बर, 1969 में शिकायतों का कोई ज्ञापन पत्र प्राप्त हुआ प्रतीत नहीं होता है। यद्यपि, एक ज्ञापनपत्र दिनांक 4 अप्रैल, 1969 का, आल इंडिया ई० एम० ई० सिविलियन परसोनेल एसोसिएशन की बंगलौर शाखा, जो 515 आर्मी बेस के असैनिक कर्मचारियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, से प्राप्त हुआ जिसमें यह आरोप लगाया गया था कि कमांडर को प्रेषित पहले के कुछ अभिवेदनों पर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया था। इसकी जांच की गई तथा एसोसिएशन ने एक लिखित अभिपुष्टि की कि उनके पहले के अभिवेदनों पर यथोचित ध्यान दिया गया।

#### Unemployment due to Closure of Companies

1778. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of companies were closed during the last two years in the country ; and

(b) if so, the number of persons rendered unemployed as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) Five hundred and twenty three companies during 1969-70 and 472 companies during 1970-71 ceased functioning either by going into liquidation or by getting struck off under Section 560(5) of the Companies Act 1956. The number of such closures has shown a declining trend over the last several years.

(b) The information regarding the number of workers employed by companies is not required to be disclosed by them in their statutory returns filed under the Companies Act. Hence, the information is not available.

#### Supply of Cigarettes for Jawans

1779. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain brands of cigarettes supplied to the soldiers in the military are very unpopular in the market and not consumed otherwise, such as, Number Ten and National Gold Flake ;

(b) if so, the reasons for supplying such unpopular cigarettes to our Jawans ; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that popular brands and good quality cigarettes are supplied to them ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) No, Sir. Cigarettes issued free to troops are procured out of brands a proved after user trials. They are required to confirm to the prescribed ASC Specification and are subjected to scientific inspection and analysis before acceptance.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Arrears of Income-tax

1781. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total amount of tax arrears at present as compared to the tax arrears at the end of the last three financial years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K R. GANESH) : The net arrears of income-tax outstanding at the end of Financial year 1970-71 as compared to the arrears outstanding at the end of financial years 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70 are given below :—

Financial years	Net arrears outstanding (In crores of rupees)
1967-68	374.52
1968-69	435.49
1969-70	507.91
1970-71	499.68