

Export of Naphtha

3614. SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the countries to which Naphtha has been exported indicating the quantities and prices thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): During 1974 Naphtha has so far been exported to Aden, Japan and Singapore earning foreign exchange of over Rs. 12 crores.

It will not be in the public interest to disclose the quantities and prices of different petroleum products exported to individual countries.

Deraiment of goods train at Ratanpur Station

3615. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total loss suffered as a result of derailment of a coal special goods train at Ratanpur near Jamalpur on the 14th May, 1974?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): The accident occurred on 12-5-1974 and not on 14-5-1974. The cost of damage to railway property involved in this accident has been estimated at approximately Rs. 300/-.

Foreign collaboration for oil exploration in Bombay High

3616. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to have foreign collaboration for oil exploration in the Bombay High;

(b) whether some other areas will be offered to foreign firms for oil exploration; and

(c) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Some preliminary discussions are being held in connection with awarding contracts for certain off shore areas. It is not in public interest to disclose the details at this stage.

Producers of Caustic Soda, Soda Ash and Sulphuric Acid

3617 SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major producers of caustic soda, soda ash and sulphuric acid are 4 monopoly houses;

(b) the particulars about the installed capacity, production and share of the market of each of them;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the 100 per cent premium that is being charged by the producers or their henchmen on these products and which is escaping the various taxes; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to eliminate the premium and to protect the interests of the small consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A statement giving installed capacity and production during 1973-74 of units engaged in the manufacture of caustic soda, soda ash and sulphuric acid