

**Supply of Soda Ash to industry**

1086, SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO:  
SHRI TUNA ORAON:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are difficulties in the supply of Soda Ash to the industry;

(b) if so, the nature of difficulties;

(c) whether there is any control on prices and distribution thereof; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines of the arrangement made so far for its distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b) Due to present production of soda ash being short of demand, some consumers are experiencing difficulties in obtaining their full requirements.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Train Accidents in Orissa during the last One Year**

1087. SHRI P. GANGADEB:  
SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway accidents which took place in Orissa during the last one year;

(b) loss suffered by Government as a result of these accidents;

(c) total number of persons killed and injured; and

(d) the amount of compensation given to the deceased?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Information about train accidents is not compiled State-wise but Railway-wise. On the South Eastern Railway which serves Orissa State, there were 96 train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fires in trains during the period November, 1973 to October, 1974.

(b) The cost of damage to railway property was estimated at approximately Rs. 50,32,225/-.

(c) In these accidents 17 persons were killed and 125 injured.

(d) No compensation has so far been paid to the dependents of the deceased.

**Non-Availability of Diesel for Farmers in Orissa**

1088, SHRI P. GANGADEB:  
SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers of Orissa are facing difficulties due to non-availability of diesel;

(b) whether agricultural production has been affected directly due to this;

(c) if so, measures taken to provide diesel at Central rate to the farmers; and

(d) quantity of diesel supplied to Orissa during the last quarter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) There have been no reports of any shortage of diesel oil in Orissa in the recent past. In one instance there was a HSD dry out in one of the Caltex pumps and on a request from the State

Government, the demand was met by stepping up supplies from the IOC outlet.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) No allocation of diesel oil is made State wise. Sales of diesel oil from the Oil Companies retail outlets being free, supplies to states are made according to demands.

**Difficulties faced by Small Scale Plastic Manufacturers in Orissa**

1089. SHRI P. GANGADEB:

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale plastic manufacturers in Orissa are facing difficulties due to non-availability of raw material;

(b) if so, salient features thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government in this regard?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):**

(a) to (c) The plastic processing industry which is largely in the small scale sector is facing difficulties in procurement of plastic resins throughout the country. This is due to the fact that the indigenous production has not kept pace with the demand. There is no price and distribution control on thermoplastic raw materials.

Efforts are being made to increase indigenous production and make imports to the extent possible.

**Steps to Improve Efficiency of M.R.T.P. Commission**

1090. SHRI VEKARRIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Member of M.R.T.P. Commission has expressed the view during the course of the discussion on prices and income policy organised in New Delhi on the 16th September, 1974 by the National Productivity Council that the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act and the Commission has proved largely ineffective in diffusion the concentration of economic power in a few groups; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to make the Commission more effective?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) and (b). On the 16th September, 1974 Dr. H. K. Paranjape is reported to have participated in a series of discussions organised by the National Productivity Council in New Delhi. The views expressed by him were only his personal views and as such the Government has no proposal to examine such personal views.

**Construction of Railway Line for Mahoba to Khajurao**

1091. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the feasibility of construction of a railway line from Mahoba to Khajurao;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and