

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha,

**Requirement of Ethyl Alcohol by Andhra Pradesh**

1243. **SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government propose to take ethyl alcohol from surplus State and give it to Andhra Pradesh for industries?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):** Allocations of ethyl alcohol from surplus to deficit States are made by Central Government on the recommendations of the Working Committee of the Central Molasses Board. In its last meeting held on 26-11-75 the Committee had recommended allocation of 2.00 million litres of alcohol from Tamil Nadu and 0.5 million litres from Karnataka to meet the requirement of the Synthetic Drugs Plants of I.D.P.L. in Andhra Pradesh. The recommendation was accepted by the Central Government and orders issued accordingly.

**Shortage of Caustic Soda**

1244. **SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked for the distribution of soda ash through State Directors of Industries;

(b) if so, the decision of Central Government thereon;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of caustic soda throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to raise the production and also to fix the price of caustic soda?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Presently no shortage of caustic soda is being reported. However, Government is keeping a watch on the production trends. Government exercises no control on the price of caustic soda. The Alkali Manufacturers Association representing the industry, recommends the ceiling selling prices of caustic soda to its constituent members.

**Scarcity of DMT**

1245. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to states:

(a) whether there is a DMT scarcity in the country, and

(b) if so, the steps taken to overcome this scarcity?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI):** (a) and (b). The demand for DMT is in excess of production and supply since October 1975. Steps have been taken to augment availability of paraxylene, which is the raw material for manufacture of DMT, by imports for increasing domestic production of DMT. Import of DMT is also planned to further supplement indigenous availability.

**Appointment of Sons/Daughters of Loyal Railway Employees**

1246. **SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: