

CONCESSION IN EXCISE DUTIES

1459. SHRI AMRIT NAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the concessions announced in the various excise duties after a lapse of some time since their introduction in any year's Budget are paid back to the manufacturers; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating some measures to see that these differential amounts are not pocketed by the manufacturers but reach the consumers who have been charged higher prices during the period intervening between the imposition and the concession?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) When Central Excise taxation proposals introduced in any year's Budget are reduced by the Parliament, refunds of duties collected since the introduction of the proposals have to be granted to the manufacturers in accordance with section 5 of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931. However, when the central excise duties are reduced by the Central Government by issue of exemption notifications, refund of duty collected in the past period is granted only if the exemption is given retrospective effect by including a specific provision to that effect in the notification. Reductions in duty announced by the Government are generally prospective and retrospective effect is given only in some rare and deserving cases.

(b) Grant of refund of duties in accordance with section 5 of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931 cannot be made conditional on the benefit of the refund being passed on to the consumers. Where, however, a concession is given by an exemption notification and applied retrospectively, the Government would, where feasible, consider taking steps to ensure that the manufacturers do not pocket the differential amounts collected by them during the period intervening between the enhancement or imposition of duty in a Finance Bill and announcement of the concession.

SINDRI FERTILISER FACTORY

1460. SHRI GANESH GHOSH:
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI:
SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:

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

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from Shri N. N. Modak of Sindri Fertilizers regarding corruption in the Sindri Fertilizer Plant;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered it; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHURAMIAH):

(a) No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE IN STATES

1461. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government/Planning Commission have prepared any report/or conducted any investigation on/into the *per capita* State-wise expenditure by the Centre in various forms under the Three Five Year Plans and the first year of the Fourth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has not found it necessary to give high priority to such an enquiry.

अंकलेश्वर तेल क्षेत्र में दुर्घटना

1462. श्री बसबन्त : क्या पेट्रोमियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सितम्बर, 1967 में अंकलेश्वर प्राकृतिक गैस तेल क्षेत्र में एक दुर्घटना हुई थी ;

(ख) क्या इस की कोई जांच की गई थी; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या निष्कर्ष निकले तथा इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

पेट्रोलियम और रासायन तथा समाज कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रघु-रमैया) : (क) से (ग). हड़ताल की अवधि में अंकलेश्वर तेल क्षेत्र में तेल और गैस की सप्लाई के वाल्वस (Valves) को जान बूझ कर तोड़ने की कोशिश की गई थी ; ऐसा प्रतीत होता है। उस समय आयोग के ड्यूटी पर स्टाफ की चुस्ती के कारण भाग्यवश भयंकर परिणाम टल गये। राज्य पुलिस अधिकारी अभी मामले की छानबीन कर रहे हैं।

ASSIGNMENT FOR FORMER FOOD MINISTER

1463. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have assigned some duty concerning his Ministry or the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to Shri C. Subramaniam, the former Food and Agriculture Minister after the General Elections;

(b) if so, the nature thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Shri Subramaniam went to U.S.A. along with his wife recently in this connection;

(d) how much expenditure he has incurred on his tours, staff, postage etc.,

(e) whether he was also paid some honorarium; and

(f) if so, how much?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) to (f). Shri C. Subramaniam, accompanied by his wife, recently visited Mexico, U.S.A., and a few other countries, under a Rockefeller Foundation travel grant, mainly in connection with the annual meetings, held in October 1967, of the Board of Trustees of the International Maize and

Wheat Improvement Centre of which he is a member. This did not involve any expenditure on the part of the Government.

FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS, TRAVANCORE

1464. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total capital and working capital of the Fertilizers and Chemicals, Travancore was Lower in 1962-63 by 50 per cent as compared to 1965-66 but its production was higher;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even the 50 per cent of the target fixed for 1963-64 was not achieved in 1965-66;

(c) the reasons for continuous fall in production and the percentage of profit every year;

(d) whether Government have investigated into the causes thereof and, if so, the result thereof; and

(e) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) No Sir, the total subscribed and working capital in 1962-63 was Rs. 8.01 crores and that in 1965-66 was Rs. 10.87 crores. The production in terms of Nitrogen in the year 1962-63 was 10,600 tonnes and that in 1965-66 was 12,658 tonnes.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Reasons for the shortfall in production are as below:-

1962-63

(i) Plant shutdown to change over from wood Gasification to Oil Gasification;

(ii) Power cut by the Kerala State Electricity Board.

(iii) Salinity in the riverwater.

1963-64

Power cut by the Kerala State Electricity Board.