

been increased by the Coastal Conference from Rs. 6.30 prior to December, 1973 to the existing level of Rs. 27.15 per tonne.

In March, 1974, on the request of the West Bengal Government 5,000 tonnes of salt have been released from the reserve stock of 25,000 tonnes in Salkia Salt Golhas to maintain the price level. Again in April—May, 1974, 5,000 tonnes more have been released exclusively for West Bengal.

We have also taken up with the Ministry of Transport and Shipping, the question of reducing the bunker surcharge to the original level. We have requested the State Governments to direct their nominees to lift their quotas in full. The Railways have also been requested to move 4 rakes of salt on a priority basis from Kandla to Calcutta. Under the existing Zonal Scheme, the requirements of West Bengal are met by sea from West coast and Tulicorina parts. A committee has been appointed to review the Zonal Scheme in order to improve the distribution and price of salt in all the North Eastern States including West Bengal.

The member has also referred to the difficulty in unloading of salt from the ships that are waiting at the Calcutta port. This is a matter which is the concern of Ministry of Transport and Shipping who are being requested to attend to this on an urgent basis. It is however reported that out of the four ships that were to be unloaded in the middle of April 1974, three ships have been unloaded and the unloading of the fourth ship was delayed as it caught fire. In any case we have not allowed problems connected with unloading to obstruct the availability of salt. The release of 5,000 tonnes of salt in April—May 1974 was aimed at greater availability.

The reserves will be replenished when salt is unloaded.

As regards the possibility of development of salt in Contai coastal belt area, the West Bengal Government have reported that the total available salt land fully developed for salt production is hardly adequate to meet the requirements of the proposed soda ash and caustic soda plant at Haldia. The climatic condition in Orissa is not very favourable for production of salt. In case the State Governments come up with proposals for setting up salt works, such proposal will receive

12.36 hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO  
USQ No. 2862 RE EXPENDITURE  
INCURRED ON SECURITY OF  
MINISTERS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): I lay a statement correcting the reply given on the 13th March, 1974 to Unstarred Question No. 2862 by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee regarding expenditure incurred on security of Ministers, on the Table of the House.

Statement

On 13th March, 1974 while furnishing a reply to the Unstarred Question No. 2862 in the House regarding annual expenditure incurred on security of the Ministers including the Prime Minister since 1971. I furnished following figures of expenditure:—

	1971	1972	1973
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Prime Minister . . . .	3,68,730.00	3,83,184.00	3,87,894.00
2. Home Minister . . . .	..	..	71,868.55
3. Finance Minister . . . .	65,822.00	67,457.00	74,564.00
4. All Other Ministers . . . .	22,082.00 each	22,407.60 each	24,162.80 each

Note : For those Ministers who remained in Office for fraction of a year, the expenditure on security was incurred for the period they stayed in Office at the rates mentioned above.

It has now come to my notice that these expenditure figures relate to only the expenditure incurred on body-guards in plain-clothes and do not include the expenditure incurred on armed police guards provided at the residences of some Ministers. Likewise there is some correction in figures of expenditure incurred on guards attached to the Finance Minister. As soon as this mistake came

to my notice I sought Chair's permission to make a correctional statement. Accordingly, a revised statement of expenditure incurred on security of the Ministers is laid on the Table of the House. This may be substituted in place of the Statement of expenditure incurred on the security of the Ministers during the period 1971-73 furnished earlier.

STATEMENT SHOWING EXPENDITURE ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MINISTERS DURING 1971-73.

	1971 (in Rs.)	1972 (in Rs.)	1973 (in Rs.)
1. Shrimati Indira Gandhi . . . .	9,61,553.40	9,76,007.00	10,52,338.60
2. Shri Y.B. Chavan . . . .	1,06,023.20	1,08,200.00	1,14,418.80
3. Shri Jagjivan Ram . . . .	49,263.60	43,713.60	53,072.00
4. Shri Swaran Singh . . . .	22,082.40	22,407.60	51,480.80
5. Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit . . . .	14,721.50	22,407.670	1,16,943.25
6. Dr. Karan Singh . . . .	52,943.60	52,269.20	56,944.40
7. Shri I. K. Gujral . . . .	22,082.00	22,407.60	29,626.40
8. Shri R.N. Mirdha . . . .	22,082.00	22,407.60	43,037.80
9. Prof. S. Nurul Hasan . . . .	22,082.00	37,838.40	56,944.40
10. Shri K.C. Pant . . . .	37,512.00	37,838.40	57,944.40
11. Shri V C. Shulka . . . .	52,943.60	22,407.60	24,162.80
12. Shri F.H. Mohsin . . . .	22,082.00	22,407.60	37,821.80
13. All other Ministries . . . .	22,082.00 each	22,407.60 each	24,162.80

NOTE : For those Ministries who remained in Office for fraction of a year, the expenditure on the security was incurred for the period they stayed in office at the rates mentioned above.