

**West Bengal Government note on
Transportation of Coal**

*539. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a note from Government of West Bengal criticising the handling of coal transportation by Railways; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Votes secured by Political Parties in
the last two Elections**

*542. SHRI AMBESH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state how do the number of votes secured by the Indian National Congress, Bhartiya Jan Sangh, C.P.I., C.P.M. and Bhartiya Kranti Dal in the last elections to Legislative Assemblies, separately in the States where elections have taken place recently, compare to the votes secured by each of them in the preceding election?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6602/74].

**Demand and Supply position of organic
and inorganic Chemicals after Oil
Crisis**

*543. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the demand, internal production, imports and supply position of chemicals, both organic and inorganic, after the oil crisis in the world;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof;

(c) how do Government propose to meet the situation after imposing heavy duty on naphtha in the internal market; and (d) whether heavy duty on petroleum products will lead to rise in prices of chemicals and if so, the price rise expected and the way Government propose to meet the situation? 1

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b). The import of chemicals, both organic and inorganic would be governed by the new import policy for the licensing period 1974-75 which is under formulation. The import of chemicals including those that are petroleum based, will depend on the assessment made from time to time about the essentiality and quantum of the requirement, availability in world markets and our own foreign exchange constraints.

(c) The selling price of Naphtha for uses other than fertilizer, has been reduced with effect from 26.3.74 to reduce its impact on the chemical industry.

(d) Increase in duty or a price rise, would have the effect of increasing the prices of various petroleum based chemicals. However, no accurate figures of such price increases are available.

Sea Erosion in Gujarat

*545. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sea erosion in Gujarat Coast is spreading to new areas and getting more and more intensified; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to fight effectively sea erosion in Gujarat coast?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). No, Sir. According to the State Government there is no serious problem of sea erosion in Gujarat. Only a few scattered places are affected and suitable protective measures have been taken.