

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAWDHARY) : (a). No, Sir. The movement of coal was affected primarily because of decline in the consumers, demand, labour troubles, etc.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Salt Cess Fund

\*329. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government collects 'Salt Cess' and maintains a 'Salt Cess Fund' ;

(b) whether the unutilised amount from the Salt Cess Fund goes to the general revenue of Government or is accumulated as a separate Fund for being used for the betterment of the Salt Industry ; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the amount recovered as Salt Cess during each of the last three years and the utilisation thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The Government collects cess on salt under the Salt Cess Act, 1953 but it is not maintained as a separate Salt Cess Fund.

(b) The entire collection made on account of Cess on Salt is credited to the general revenues under head 'II-Union Excise Cess on Salt' and all expenditure in connection with the development of salt industry including assistance, etc. and maintenance of the establishment of the Salt Department is met out of general revenues.

(c) the details regarding the recovery of Salt cess and expenditure incurred during the last years are given below :-

Year	Collection	Expenditure
1967-68	Rs. 1,04,28,286	Rs. 47,18,720
1968-69	Rs. 1,11,08,712	Rs. 66,84,897
1969-70	Rs. 99,22,497	Rs. 69,15,869

#### Alleged Defective Agreement for Supply of Crude to Haldia Refinery

\*330. SHRI D.N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shah Committee Report has pointed out that agreement for the supply of Crude to Haldia Refinery, which is now under construction, suffers from many defects ;

(b) if so, the details of the defects pointed out by the Committee ; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) A reference is invited to para 5.3-28 of the report which has already been placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

#### Use of Provident Funds and Insurance Funds by Panchayat Samities and Municipalities

2001. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some local bodies like panchayat samities and municipalities in various States have been found using up Provident Funds and Insurance Funds for their own purpose, causing much trouble to the employees, at the time of