

	<i>Demurrage Charges</i>	<i>Siding Charges</i>
1971-72	Rs. 347 lakhs	Rs. 29 lakhs
1972-73	Rs. 519 lakhs	Rs. 24 lakhs

The figures at the end of 1973-74 are not yet ready and the same will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as they are compiled.

(c) A large part of the outstandings is due to Siding holders raising some disputes or seeking remissions of demurrage charges. These take time for finalisation.

(d) Each item of outstanding is reviewed and efforts are made to clear the same by correspondence and personal contacts. Disputed items are discussed in meetings. In some cases, amounts due to the consignees are withheld for adjustment against the Railway dues.

#### **Supply of power to West Bengal from Santaldih Power Station**

8787. SHRI N. K. SANGHI Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after commissioning of the Santaldih Power Station, the supply of power to the industries in West Bengal has not improved,

(b) whether the situation has recorded further deterioration and a 25 per cent cut in power supply is now being planned; and

(c) if so, the causes therefor and measures being taken to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (c). The 120 MW unit at Santaldih has not been able to stabilise its generation because of teething troubles. In the last few days, due to cutages and supply of

poor quality of coal, the generation in the Bandel Station of West Bengal and the power station of Durgapur Projects Limited has declined. The generation in the D.V.C system has also been low. As a consequence of these reductions, the power shortage situation has deteriorated resulting in an adverse effect on industries in the State. The West Bengal Government have not indicated about any 25 per cent cut in power supply being planned by them. They have, however, reported that load shedding has been resorted to in the State from time to time, to match the load with the actual availability of power. This is in addition to the 15 per cent cut which has been in operation for quite some time. Concerted efforts are being made to improve the availability of power of the power stations in the State and to stabilize the operation of Santaldih unit by deputing experts from BHEL.

#### **Shortage of small packs of life saving drugs**

8788 SHRI N. K. SANGHI Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether small packs of many life saving drugs are not being manufactured by the drug companies because they sell slightly cheap and the patients are being forced to buy costly bigger packs;

(b) whether small packs of 100 tablets of 'Sorbitrate' are available in the market and if not, whether Government have inquired into the causes of their non-availability; and

(c) whether the non-availability is due to suspension of production of small packs by the company and if so, the reasons adduced by the company for the same and the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that patients are not put to difficulty by paying more for bigger packs?