75, 787,120 in FY 74, 815,270 in FY 75 and 865,020 in FY 76, and after fiscal 1973 the product is expected to be in extreme supply shortage.

With development in the aluminum industry and the electrode industry, pitch, tar distillatory product, is forecasted to increase in demand, and so acquisition of pitch raw material, coal tar is becoming a future big issue.

Longe-range Demand Estimate Of Pitch

The Japan Aromatic Industry Association, Inc. has lately compiled a use-wise long-range demand forecast for pitch, main fractional distillatory product of

ng-range Demand Forecast for Pitch
(figures show percentages against the previous fiscal year)

	FY 72		FY 73		FY 74		FY 75		FY 76	
	Demand	Component ratio	Demand	Component ratio	Demand	Component ratio	Demand	Component ratio	Demand	Component ratio
	24,900 (92)	2.9	21,700 (87)	2.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	157,000 (117)	21.3	157,000 (100)	18.0	157,000 (100)	19.2	157,000 (100)	18.1		
	310,000 (114)	42.9	364,700 (112)	45.0	388,200 (106)	47.6	425,000 (110)	49.2		
	177,300 (100)	24.1	180,100 (102)	22.9	180,100 (100)	22.3	190,000 (106)	22.1		
	12,000 (100)	1.6	12,000 (100)	1.5	12,000 (100)	1.5	12,000 (100)	1.4		
	6,000 (102)	0.8	6,000 (100)	0.8	6,200 (103)	0.8	6,200 (102)	0.7		
	2,000 (100)	0.3	2,000 (100)	0.4	2,000 (100)	0.3	2,000 (100)	0.3		
	18,040 (139)	2.5	20,040 (111)	2.7	22,140 (110)	2.7	23,240 (105)	2.7		
	13,700 (107)	1.9	14,700 (107)	1.8	15,700 (107)	1.9	16,800 (107)	1.9		
	14,100 (100)	1.9	14,800 (105)	1.8	15,500 (105)	1.9	16,200 (105)	1.9		
	731,040 (100)	99.3	781,340 (107)	99.3	806,140 (103)	99.2	860,040 (104)	99.3		
	5,000 (250)	0.7	5,000 (100)	0.7	6,000 (120)	0.8	6,100 (100)	0.7		
100	737,040 (100)	100	787,120 (107)	100	812,270 (104)	100	865,020 (106)	100		

Maximum Tolerable Limit Of PCB Recommended

According to the Council, the recommendation is based on its official investigation findings, figurings and assumptions, and various official American reference data.

The Japanese people's average daily PCB intake has been figured at 72.4 micrograms by relating the average of PCB content in food samples the council examined and the maximum possible PCB intake through foodstuff ascertained through the fiscal 1968 national nutrition survey findings. A predominant 9.4 per cent of the 72.4 micrograms has been assumed to come from fish and shellfish.

American research data concerning the semi-acute and chronic toxicity and ill genetic effects of PCB so far discovered through experiments on mice showed that, in human terms, 5 micrograms per one kilogram of body weight, that is 250 micrograms for an adult weighing 50 kilograms is permissible per day.

For an average Japanese, that limit could be observed if his daily PCB intake through fish and shellfish, the major items in the Japanese meals, is held down at 180 micrograms. In that case, the maximum tolerable PCB content in fish and shellfish daily consumed should be 1.41 ppm.

The 1.41 ppm figure has been cut down to 1 ppm and the two different standards have been set for offshore and inshore fish and shellfish because the offshore fish and shellfish usually eaten by the Japanese are three times the inshore types.

The council has deferred its decision on such provisional standards applicable to pregnant women and infants due to shortage of research data. It also saw the need for setting similar standards for meats and vegetables.

Both the Council and the Health and Welfare Ministry claimed the standards could bring good results if properly applied through new surveillance, guidance and consultation measures to be worked out in about a month.

But the provisional recommendation and its backgrounds have invited an instant surge of criticisms and complaints from numerous observers.

A typical criticism was voiced by Dr. K. Fujiwara, chief researcher at the Kyoto Municipal Public Health Institute he considered the 3 ppm limit set for inshore fish as too high.

It should have been set at less than 1 ppm since the Japanese eat five to 10 times as much fish and shellfish as the Americans, plus many derivative foodstuffs, he asserted.

He also wondered how effectively the Ministry expects the inadequately-equipped local health authorities to do the PCB analyzing jobs.

Fish and shellfish in Japan's six major inshore or inland fishing grounds are contaminated well over 3 ppm, he added.

Other critics considered the recommendation far from adequate because of its neglect of the past PCB accumulations in the bodies of Japanese.

Admitting the inadequacy of local health authorities' analytical capacities, even an environmental official of the Ministry said all what each Japanese can do to defend himself against PCB contamination is to prefer offshore fish to coastal ones as far as he can.

MITI To Build Test Plant For PCB Treatment

To protect the human body from environmental pollution under a measure for security guarantee of chemical products, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry has decided to build a pilot plant to recover and incinerate electric appliances such as transformers and condensers, and pressure sensitive papers containing PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) in cooperation with The Japan Electric Manufacturers Association.

The pilot plant will be constructed at the Environmental Pollution Resources Research Laboratory, for completion this September.

MITI, moreover, plans establishment of a semi-governmental new company to carry out recovery and treatment of substances containing PCB, and study of treatment technology within this year.

Mitsubishi Corp., MHI Appointed To Friendly Enterprises By China

China has appointed Japan's Mitsubishi Corp., a leading trader, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., as friendly enterprises, which could engage in direct trade with China.

This was disclosed in a speech delivered by Liu Hsi-Wen, a responsible person of the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, at a dinner held here on August 18 night in honor of a delegation of the Mitsubishi group of companies, which is currently visiting the Chinese capital.

The dinner party was also attended by Wu Shu-Tung, another responsible member of the China Committee.

Dollar and tons in this issue indicate U.S. Dollar and metric tons, respectively, unless otherwise specified. Exchange rate of ¥300=$1 is used.

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