

(b) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Planning Commission has since been fully reconstituted.

(b) Does not arise.

Procurement of Rice

3807. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase in the procurement of rice during 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the details thereof in comparison to the position in 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A quantity of 126.06 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured as on 16th August, 1991 in the current kharif marketing season 1990-91 as against 117.44 lakh tonnes of rice procured during the corresponding period last year.

Telecast of Film Highlights Culture of North-Eastern States

3808. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms exist to telecast a feature film highlighting the culture of North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of feature films telecast during the last three years based on culture separately of each State of North-Eastern States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KU-

MARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir. No separate criteria exist for telecast of feature films highlighting the culture of the North-Eastern States.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the last three years, ten feature films in Assamese, four in Manipuri, two in Bodo and one in Karbi were telecast on the National Network of Doordarshan. During the same period, fifty Assamese feature films (including repeats) were telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati.

Prices of Tyres

3809. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of tyres of all makes have been hiked by 6 to 7 percent recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof with reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are committed to bring down the prices of tyres; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) According to the information supplied by the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association, some of the tyre companies have increased the tyre prices to the extent of 5% on account of additional surcharges on basic excise duty. Apart from this, the tyre prices have not been increased recently.

(c) and (d) There is no statutory control over the prices of automotive tyres. As such, tyre companies do not require Government's approval to go in for a price rise. However, the Government have placed specified categories of truck and bus tyres under OGL at a reduced rate of duty

for import by bulk consumers to keep a check on prices of these tyres. To encourage creation of fresh capacity for the manufacture of automotive tyres and tubes, the industry has been exempted from licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Government have also ensured maximisation of tyre production through continuous monitoring and regular interaction with the industry.

Raw Materials for Plastic Industries

3810. SHRI SHYAM LAL KAMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether plastic packaging industries in private sector are on the verge of closure due to abnormal increase in the price of raw materials like polyester, plastic adhesives and polyester inks; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to reduce prices of the raw materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Consequent to the increase in price of petroleum products during the gulf crisis and also recently, as well as the exchange rate adjustment and other fiscal measures after Union Budget, prices of all petrochemical material including plastics have increased.

(b) There is no price control over petrochemical items including plastics.

Liability of Errant Multi-National Companies

3811. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether punitive action against errant companies is one of the best ways of raising health and safety standards;

(b) if so, after Bhopal Gas leak experience, what kinds of corporate liability the Government propose to establish; and

(c) how the Government propose to ensure multinational corporate liability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Factories (Amendment) Act places the responsibility for ensuring the safety, health and welfare of workers on the occupier. The emphasis has thus shifted from a prescriptive approach to one of self-regulation. The enforcement agency must impart technical guidance and use persuasive methods to see that the occupier discharges his statutory responsibility. In the event of serious or persistent default punitive measures should be adopted against the occupier.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests are proposing to bring up a comprehensive legislation for setting up a National Environment Tribunal which shall take care of Corporate Liability, including multinational Corporate liability.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities in Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation

3812. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has been incurring losses from its very inception in 1978;

(b) whether eight Chairman-cum-Managing Directors were appointed in the above undertaking during the period of thirteen years and none of them was allowed to complete his term of five years; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the total loss incurred by the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation so far has exceeded its total capital outlay.