

(c) Thirtyfour dealers have so far been appointed in State Capitals and other cities.

(d) The dealers are required to provide show-room and servicing facilities as per standards laid down by Maruti Udyog Ltd. Commission is paid to dealers on car sales to cover expenses involved in providing free services, warranty attention etc.

(e) Dealers are appointed by Maruti Udyog Ltd. on evaluation of applications received against open advertisements. The company is likely to appoint more dealers in future in a similar manner.

Marketing soft drinks by liquor companies

2094. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government are aware that many top private companies in liquor business have taken up marketing of soft drink with some brand names and advertising of their liquor drinks indirectly but quite apparently ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : M/s. McDowel and Co. and M/s. Mohan Meakins, manufacturers of potable liquor, have also been marketing soft drinks.

Pending subsidy claims under drug price Equalisation amount

2095. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount that is available with the Government and STC under Drug Price Equalisation Amount for distribution of subsidy ;

(b) the claims for subsidy that are lying pending with Government for more than one month; and

(c) the likely date when Government will be in a position to dispose of these subsidy claims ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c). Information to the extent available would be collected and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

Reduction in prices of tyres due to excise duty concessions

2096. SHRI BIMALKANTI GHOSH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the excise duty burden on tyres has come down due to the tax concessions recently announced by Government ;

(b) whether in view of the reduction of excise duty on tyres, the tyre manufacturers have reduced the prices of their products; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed by Government to ensure that the consumers of tyres get the benefit of reduction in excise duty on tyres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (b). Reduction in Excise duty announced in M.y 1985 is available only to those small tyre, tubes and flap manufacturers whose aggregate value of production does not exceed Rs. 50 lakhs in any financial year. According to these manufacturers, the excise relief could not be passed on to the consumers as the increase in the costs of inputs has more than neutralised the decrease in excise duty. However, discussions have been held with the small-scale tyres/tubes/flaps manufacturers to impress upon them to pass on the benefit of excise relief to consumers. The industry has also been asked to roll back the prices and also to furnish full justifica-