

High prices of Khadi Cloth

2102. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering an increase in the rebate on Khadi Cloth in view of the common man's difficulty in paying high prices for the Khadi cloth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to spell out their policy for protection of Khadi cloth against the cheaper mill products ?

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 (c). A dialogue is currently going on between the Government and the KVIC on revision of the existing rebate scheme for Khadi.

S.T.D. facility in Chirala Town of Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh

2103. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish STD facility in Chirala town of Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether the Telecommunications Department acquired the land allotted by Chirala Municipality for construction of buildings to establish STD facility ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c), Municipal Land is to be given by Municipality as agreed but approval from Secretariat, Government of

Andhra Pradesh is still awaited and the Director Town Planning of Chirala is pursuing with the State Government for approval for making over land to the Department.

Misuse of telephones in the public booths

2104. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news item in the 'Indian Express' dated 4 June, 1985, that out of about 4000 and odd public telephones, about 3000 have been allotted on priority basis to private subscribers in return for a monthly payment of Rs. 200 to the Telephone Department with promise to allow the public to use the telephone;

(b) whether Government are aware that for all these 3000 and odd telephones, the private allottees of telephone have an illegal extension installed in their houses and are misusing the telephones; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Government to prevent misuse of telephones in the public booths and prevent thefts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Approximately 3050 Private Guaranteed Public Telephones have been provided and functioning in Delhi as per the rules framed for the purpose.

(b) and (c) : No, Sir. Action is taken under the Indian Telegraph Rules against the hirer whenever such a case comes to notice.

Public Call Offices in Bangalore

2105. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of public telephone booths located in Bangalore city .

(b) whether it is a fact that there are no public telephone booths in new extensions in Bangalore city like Banashankar II stage, Vijayanagar, J.P. Nagar, etc. and if so, whether there is a proposal to provide some public telephones at suitable places;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the shops which are having telephones are charging abnormally from the public for making calls; and

(d) whether Government propose to fix a prescribed rate for each call that the shop-keepers have to charge from the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) There are 885 public telephones in Bangalore Telephone system as on 30.6.85. Some of these telephones have been provided in booths while others are without them.

(b) No, Sir. A number of public telephones are working in these areas of Bangalore city.

(c) No such complaints have come to notice of Government.

(d) A charge of 50 paise per call has been prescribed for calls made from a public telephone.

Acquisition of Vanaspati Business of Hindustan Lever Limited by Lipton India Limited

2106. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4120 on 16.12.1980 regarding merger of M/s. Hindustan Lever and Lipton and state :

(a) whether the recent acquisition of vanaspati business of Hindustan Lever Ltd. worth Rs. 120 crores per annum by Lipton India Ltd. is a case of indirect merger which is specifically prohibited under the MRTP Act ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to re-examine the contentions of the concerned companies that it was merely a case of transfer of certain undertakings between two companies already inter-connected by their relation with M/s Unilever of London; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to safeguard the freedom of the employees from being arbitrarily transferred from one company to another ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN):

(a) The acquisition of, *inter-alia*, the Vanaspati business by M/s. Lipton India Ltd. from Hindustan Lever Ltd. was not a case of merger within the meaning of Section 23 of the MRTP Act, 1969.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There are no specific provisions under the Industrial Disputes Act regarding transfer of employees from one master to another. However, if there is any victimisation or transfer which is unjustified or in case the service conditions etc. are violated by the management, it is open to the union and workmen to raise disputes under the Industrial Disputes Act. So far as Industrial Disputes Act is concerned, there is no such proposal to amend the Act.

Proposal for setting up Salt Model and Research Station in Andhra Pradesh

2107. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal before Government to set up a "Salt Model and Research Station" at Naupada in Sreecakulam District or at Machilipatnam in Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh;