

Rising Prices of Soaps

3465. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the pretext of escalating oil prices, big soap manufacturing units are contemplating to raise the prices of their popular brands; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take well in time to check the increase in prices of soaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The soap industry has brought to the notice of Government the possibility of a further price increase in the prices of different varieties of soaps, including the popular brands, on account of the rise in prices of industrial oils. The Government import every year Crude Palm Stearine/Palm Fatty Acid Distillate to bridge the gap between the demand for and supply of soapery oils in the country in order to ensure that the prices of soaps are kept within reasonable limits. The Government are keeping a close watch on the situation.

Setting up of Offshore Equipment Manufacturing Project

3466. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission asked the Mazagaon Docks Limited (MDL) to set up an offshore equipment manufacturing project;

(b) if so, whether Offshore equipment is being manufactured by Mazagaon Docks Limited but the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is unwilling to place adequate orders for

offshore oil platforms, process platform and other equipments on it; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and how it is proposed to utilise the equipment manufactured by the Mazagaon Docks Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). No, Sir. ONGC has been placing orders for offshore platforms on Mazagaon Docks Limited depending on the price, delivery schedule, etc.

Performance of Cycle Corporation of India

3467. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Cycle Corporation of India and its plants at Kanyapur and Kalyani during 1986-87;

(b) whether the trade unions of these units had on several occasions submitted proposals for improving the performance of the respective plants; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): (a) According to the unaudited figures for 1986-87, the Cycle Corporation of India produced 166830 Nos. of Cycles valued at Rs. 1056 lakhs resulting in a loss of Rs. 934 lakhs. Separate figures of production and profit in respect of Kalyani and Kanyapur units are not maintained as the Kalyani unit produces components which become input for the Kanyapur units producing complete bicycles.

(b) and (c). The trade unions of these units have been sending representations from time to time regarding different matters.