

(a) whether any irregularities, particularly the use of black cotton soil and flaky and soft stone ballast, has been noticed in the execution of Kota-Chittorgarh broad gauge railway line project;

(b) whether any enquiry is being conducted in this connection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). some complaints regarding irregularities in earth work and use of flaky ballast have been received recently and investigations are in progress.

Black-Marketing of 1000 CC Maruti Cars

7805. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "1000 CC MUL Car-allottees encash lotteries" appearing in the the 'Economic times' dated 2 April, 1990:

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the effective measures Government propose to take to forestall large scale black-marketing in these cars?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no legal ban on resale of cars or allotment letters. Apparently, the only measure which can reduce

the premium on such sales is higher production.

Difference in Wholesale Price Index

7806. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wholesale price index for all commodities on March 31, 1990 is at new high;

(b) if so, how it compares with the wholesale Price Index of the same period last year; and

(c) the difference in the prices of high speed diesel, petrol gur, rice bran oil, khandsari, solvent extracted groundnut oil, cotton seed oil, cigarettes, straw mill board, tyres, rubber, plastic, fire works, polystyrene, lead, pig. iron, bloms, billets, slabs skelp (or mild steel tensile plates) angles, channels & sections, joints & roles, heavy/light structurals, sheet & tin, diesel locomotives, car chassis, arhar, coffee, urad, gram, condiments, copra, gingelly seed, saf flower, raw tobacco, refrigerators & airconditioners during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Wholesale Price Index (base: 1981-82=100) for all commodities stood at 170.7 (provisional) for the week ending 31.3.1990. At that level, the all commodities wholesale price index had acquired a new height.

(b) The Wholesale Price Index for the corresponding week last year, namely, week ending 25.3.1989 stood at 156.9.

(c) A statement is given below.