

(d) if not, the advantage of this new system; and

(e) whether home delivery is being discontinued all over the country as in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (e). While home delivery of LPG refills continues to be the general rule, a cash-and-carry scheme has been introduced by the oil companies on an experimental basis in certain markets in the country, including in Kerala. Customers who opt for this scheme get a rebate of Rs. 1 per cylinder which goes out of the dealers commission.

Taking over of losing industries which obtained loans from Financial Institutions

1485. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to take over all those industries which have obtained loans/advances from the national financial institutions and which are losing concerns and are in default of over 50 per cent of the loans/losing advances to the Government;

(b) whether Government have issued guidelines to national financial institutions for taking over such sick/losing industries for default of loans or advances given to these industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Memorandum by All India Tyre dealers Federations

1486. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Tyre Dealers' Federation has submitted a memorandum to Government for setting up a high level committee comprising manufacturers, dealers; consumers' representatives and officials of the concerned Government departments to monitor production and distributions of tyres and tubes in the country;

(b) if so, full details of the memorandum;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken any decision thereon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not when a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Federation have drawn the attention of the Government to various problems of the tyre industry like increase in cost, shortage of specific varieties and certain unfair practices being resorted to by the tyre manufacturing companies and have suggested some remedial measures. The Federation have also suggested the setting up of a high level committee to monitor the production and distribution of tyres.

(c) to (e). There is no control on prices or distribution of tyres. However, various expert committees have already gone into these aspects and action is being taken on their recommendations. The Development Council for Tyres and Tubes in which all the concerned interests, including consumers, are represented, also periodically reviews production, distribution and prices of tyres. Government, therefore, do not consider it necessary to constitute a Committee as suggested by the Federation.

Instructions to State Governments to make Thermal Power Units Efficient

1487. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has recently called for making the existing thermal power units efficient irrespective of their being in the Central or State sectors;

(b) if so, whether any instructions have been issued to the State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) when a final report has been called for by the Union Government from State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d). Interaction between the Ministry of Energy, State Governments and Electricity Boards and the major power equipment manufacturers is taking place on a continuous basis to improve the performance of thermal power stations. The Ministry of Energy have been requesting the SEBs from time to time to take measures for optimum utilisation of the existing thermal power capacity. The need for improving the thermal generation and thermal performance was also stressed in the recently held State Power Ministers' Conference on 3rd and 4th November, 1985. The State Governments/SEBs have been asked to improve the performance of thermal power stations by carrying out renovation and modernisation programmes, by improving the operation and maintenance practices in the power stations, by giving training to the operation and maintenance personnel and by adopting modern management practices. Improving the performance of thermal power stations is a continuous exercise.

Setting up of Mini Cement Plants

1488. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "Rethinking on mini cement plants" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" of 16 September, 1985;

(b) if so, the number of applications pending with his Ministry for setting up of the mini cement plants and since when; and

(c) the hinderances in the way of Government in granting licences for setting up of new mini cement plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six applications are pending and the earliest of them was received in September, 1985.

(c) According to the criteria followed. Mini Cement Plants upto 100/200 tonnes per day capacity may be allowed to be set up, on merits of each case, in areas which are based on deposits of limestone which cannot sustain large cement plants. A certificate to this effect from the State Government concerned is obtained. Plants based on Vertical Shaft Kiln Technology are generally encouraged. In view of the above decision on the applications for licence can be taken only after the relevant information alongwith recommendations of State Govt. are available.

Leakage of Hydrochloric Acid at IPCL Plant

1489. SHRI V. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of workers were affected due to leakage of hydrochloric acid at a plant of the Indian Petro-chemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL);

(b) whether Government have enquired into the causes of this leakage;

(c) whether the leakage was due to negligence or carelessness of some of the employees of the Corporation;

(d) the action taken against them; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to check recurrence of such mishaps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) In all, 14