

(c) to (e). The price of gas from 1982 onwards was fixed by ONGC on replacement cost principle on thermal equivalence. There were a number of disputes on this issue of pricing of natural gas. Government of India accordingly have fixed prices with a view to encourage optimal utilisation of gas and at the same time ensure reasonable return for investment in exploration, production and transportation of gas. The prices of gas now fixed compare favourably with prices of alternative fuels/feedstock in sectors like power and fertilizers.

[Translation]

**Technical collaboration with foreign countries**

7204. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of technical collaboration agreements signed by India with foreign countries during the last one year; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Government of India have approval 957 proposals for foreign collaboration during the last one year (i.e. 1986). Details i.e. name of the Indian company, foreign collaborator, Item of manufacture and nature of collaboration of all approved foreign collaboration are published by the Indian investment Centre as a supplement to its monthly Newsletter. Copies of the publications are sent regularly to the Parliament Library.

[English]

**Translation of Constitution in different Languages**

7205. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has any scheme to acquaint the common man with the main provisions of the Constitution of India;

(b) whether the Constitution is proposed to be translated in the languages other than the ones mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution also; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to assist financially and otherwise the State and Union Territory Governments willing to undertake the project to translate Constitution of India in the Official Languages of the respective State and Union Territories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have no such scheme. However, the translation of the Constitution in the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule is under taken by the Official Languages Wing of this Ministry.

**Threat to public health by Chemical Industries in Visakhapatnam**

7206. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to issue letters of intent to the prospective industrialists only after the sites have been cleared from the environmental angle;

(b) whether Government are aware of cases where, on the basis of the letters of intent issued by the Ministry of Industry the industrialists have managed to get licences from the concerned administrative departments without satisfying environmental requirements;

(c) whether it is a fact that plants and machinery were installed and buildings constructed by industrialists on the basis of letters of intent and also licences without obtaining environmental clearance from pollution control agencies;

(d) whether letters of intent were granted recently for setting up chemical industries which are hazardous in nature in the Visakhapatnam Port area, which is likely

to cause immense threat to public health; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). While a general condition to the effect that adequate steps shall be taken to the satisfaction of the Government to prevent air, water and soil pollution is imposed in every Letter of Intent the letters of intent issued in respect of 20 specified highly polluting industries contain the condition *Inter-alia* that the State Director of Industries confirms that the site of the project has been approved from the environmental angle by the competent State authority. The Letters of intent are converted into industrial licences only after these conditions in the Letters of Intent are satisfied.

(d) and (e). During 1986, two Letters of Intent have been issued for manufacture of Ammonium Nitrate and Nitric Acid and Hydro-fluosilicic Acid for locations in Visakhapatnam District. Their conversion into industrial licences would depend on the requisite confirmation by the State Director of Industries.

#### Purchase of tin containers by Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation

7207. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that substandard quality tin containers of 5 Kg. capacity were purchased by the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited during 1986;

(b) if so, the number of such tin containers purchased and amount involved;

(c) whether any reduction was made from the bills on account of sub-standard quality of tin containers before making payment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited have reported that during 1986, their Delhi Unit had purchased 6,40,000 Nos. of 5 Kg. tins out of which 567 tins were accepted with minor deficiencies such as deformed flanges, crinkles on the flanges, rust etc. The other Units have not purchased or accepted any such tins.

(c) A rebate of Rs. 0/25 per tin of 5 Kg. was deducted from the bills.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Scarcity of sugar

7208. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual quantity of imported sugar marketed by Food Corporation of India is much lower than the quota announced by Government, creating artificial scarcity and thereby causing rise in prices in the open market;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. The release mechanism is regulated in a judicious manner in order to make sugar available at reasonable prices. As a result of effective market intervention by Food Corporation of India by way of conducting auctions of imported sugar, the prices of sugar in open market had been maintained at reasonable levels. The wholesale sugar prices were in the range of Rs. 588-620 per quintal on 14th of April, 1987 as against Rs. 620-658 per quintal in important markets on 15.4.1986.