

Cabinet Sub-Committee on Price rise, Hoarding and Profiteering.

4735. SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a Cabinet Sub-Committee was constituted to closely monitor the price-rise, hoarding and profiteering; and

(b) What further steps have been initiated for a strong consumer movement?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Government is monitoring the prices and availability of essential commodities at various level. The Central Government has urged the State Government and U.T. Administrations from time to time to enforce the relevant provisions of the E.C. Act. and other similar legislations to curb the activities of hoarders, profiteers and other anti-social elements.

The policy of the Government is to promote broad-based responsible and responsive consumer movement throughout the country. Various measures taken by the Government for this purpose include holding of national, regional and State level seminars; use of TV/AIR and other media to create consumers awareness; publishing of brochures/literature on consumer protection; coordination with State/UTs. on the activities of consumer protection, etc. Rights have also been conferred on the consumers and consumer organisations to file complaints in the court under the existing laws having bearing on consumers, such as Essential Commodities Act, 1955 prevention of Food Adulteration Act, Standards of Weights and Measures Act etc. In addition, the Central Government has enacted a comprehensive legislation, namely, the Consumer protection Act, 1986 which ap-

plies to all goods and services unless specifically exempted by the Central Government. The Act provides for setting up of a three tier quasi-judicial machinery at the national state and district level to provide speedy and inexpensive redressal to the consumers' grievances. It covers private, public joint and cooperative sectors.

Price of Drugs and Medicines

4736. SHRI . SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Delhi High Court upheld the prices of certain drugs and medicines during August, 1987;

(b) If so, when these prices were fixed by his Ministry and whether these prices have been implemented; and

(c) If not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI. R.K.JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The Court has directed the Government to fix the prices after giving a hearing to the company.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Closure of VIM plant by Hindustan Lever

4737.. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether is a fact that M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited declared closure of the Vim Plant on 1 May, 1984 at Ghaziabad factory;

(b) the reasons for the closure;

(c) whether the closure was permissible under the law; and

(d) if not, the action taken or contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The operations of VIM plant by M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd. at their Ghaziabad factory were discontinued on and from 1.5.1984 for business considerations.

(c) and (d). The Ministry of Labour is being consulted with regard to facts of the case. Therefore, the information will be laid on the table of the House at a later date.

Requirement of Synthetic Rubber

4738. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of synthetic rubber in the country;

(b) how this requirement is being met;

(c) whether some requirement is met through import;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some Italian Chemical Company has offered rubber technology to boost indigenous production;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY

OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d). The demand of major synthetic rubbers (SBR, PBR and Butyle) during 1987-88 is estimated to be about 75,000 MT against the indigenous production of about 42,000 MT. The gap between demand and supply is expected to be met by imports.

(e) to (g). No such offer in respect of above mentioned major synthetic rubbers has been received from any Italian Chemical Company.

Telephone, Post Office and Telegraph Office Facilities in Villages of Andhra Pradesh

4739. SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State:

(a) the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh having population of more than 5000 which have no telephone and Post Office, Telegraph Office facilities;

(b) whether Government have prepared a plan to provide telephone, Post Office and Telegraph Office facilities at least to the bigger villages within a definite time-frame; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and when these will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The number of villages in Andhra Pradesh having population more than 5000 which have no telephone, Post Office and Telegraph facility are 'NIL'.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.