

1	2	3	4
Ramkrishnagar	3	7	10
South Karimganj	2	4	6
Badarpur Area	1	4	5
	9	29	38

(c) and (d). The investigations done by IOC reveal that the accidents had taken place due to the contamination of kerosene oil with motor spirit at the oil company's dealership at Patherkandi, Karimganj District.

(e) The following preventive measures have been taken:

- (i) In respect of the old cases of combined dealership of MS/HSD and SKO, a decision to arrange separate and independent premises, to the extent feasible, for marketing and storage of kerosene.
- (ii) Introduction of quality control/flesh point tests of kerosene by the mobile laboratories till the above segregation is completed.

#### **Consumption of Polyester Staple Fibre**

3793. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to stimulate consumption to polyester staple fibre in view of the fact that polyester staple fibre units which have created huge capacity at heavy cost are faring badly; and

(b) the steps being taken to contain the cost of mono ethylene glycol (MEG) which has led to steep increase in the selling price of polyester staple fibre?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The excise duty on polyester staple fibre has been reduced from Rs 25 to Rs 15/kg. in this years budget to promote its domestic consumption.

(b) The basic customs duty on MEG has been reduced from 110% to 45% effective from May 2, 1988.

#### **Import of Tyres**

3794. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tyres imported after the announcement of the new import policy; and

(b) whether Government have taken this into account while fixing the quantity of import of natural rubber and corresponding by reducing the quantity of import of natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government have decided to allow the import of certain categories of truck and bus tyres under OGL at reduced rates of duty in order to check the rising trend in tyre prices. No import of tyres have so far taken place under this scheme.

(b) Quantity of natural rubber to be imported is decided on the basis of the gap in demand and domestic supply.