

(b) the further steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). No assessment has been made in the past of the properties of the Rulers of former Indian States. Government are advised that the Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Act, 1971 does not affect the private properties of the former Rulers. There is, therefore, no question of reassessing their properties. However, the Income-tax Department have been assessing the net wealth of the former Rulers in the normal course in connection with wealth-tax assessments.

Prices of soaps charged by Hindustan Lever Limited

3583. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Hindustan Lever Limited has been charging considerable price premium on Surf and soaps because of the International brand names marketed by it and if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter; and

(b) whether Government are aware that consequent upon the shortage of raw materials, the Hindustan Lever Limited has been diverting production towards the manufacture of Premium Sophisticated Toilet Soaps like Liril, Pears and Lux Supreme only at the cost of the production of popular brands of mass consumption and if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Price of Calcium Carbide

3584. SHRI AWADHESH CHANDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Messrs Birla Jute Manufacturing Company have raised the price of Calcium Carbide by 100 per cent within last eight months;

(b) whether the other manufacturers of the same item which is so vital for the industrial growth of the country have not yet raised their prices;

(c) the steps taken by Government to curb this profiteering; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The price of Calcium Carbide has been increased by all the producers mostly due to increase in price of raw materials. According to the information available with Government, the percentage increase effected by M/s. Birla jute Manufacturing Company during the period is the lowest and is of the order of 9 per cent.

(c) and (d). There is no control over the price and distribution of Calcium Carbide.

Posts of Office Superintendents in Delhi Administration

3585. SHRI DALIP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Class II Gazetted Posts (Office Superintendents) which have been kept in abeyance in Delhi Administration and not filled up so far;