

officers continuing to remain in the Pool.

- (iv) Stacking of research activities in Cooperative Industrial Research Associations due to recession.
- (v) Slow progress of Magnesium Project at the National Metallurgical Laboratory Jamshedpur due to delay in the procurement of equipment from abroad.
- (vi) Ban on filling up vacant post in the Anthropological and Zoological Surveys of India as an economy measure and delay in the setting up of a high altitude zoological research station due to non-availability of accommodation.

Effect of Levies on Petrol and Lubricating Oils on Transport Industry

9944. SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the road transport industry is languishing as a result of the new levies on petrol and lubricating oils which has pushed up the operating costs by 25 per cent ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to withdraw the new levies in the interest of the road transport industry ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) : (a). No. The increase in Central excise duty on petrol is not expected to affect the road transport industry to any significant extent, as most of the buses and trucks are diesel operated.

So far as the increase in import duty on lubricating oils is concerned, this step is expected to provide an incentive to the indigenous industry. This increase is not expected to materially affect the road transport industry.

(b) No.

Use of Safety Helmets by Motor-Cyclists and Scooterists

9945. SHRI MUHAMED SHERIFF : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make it obligatory for the motor-cyclists and the scooterists to wear safety helmets while driving the vehicle in order to avoid tragic accidents ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). The question regarding the compulsory use of crash helmets by a persons who is driving a Motor cycle or scooter or is carried on such a vehicle was examined in consultation with the State Governments and Union Administrations. It was felt that legislation making the use of crash helmets obligatory may not be undertaken at the stage but the desirability of such helmets being used on a voluntary basis by motor-cyclists and scooterists, as in other countries like U. K., U.S.A., Japan and West Germany should be publicised and encouraged by organisations engaged in road safety work.

Loans given to Hotel Projects

9946. SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF : SHRI TULSIDAS DAS-APPA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any loans have been given so far to Hotel Projects under the Hotel Development Loans Scheme ;

(b) the names of the hotel projects to which loans have been given ;

(c) the places where these hotels are going to be established ; and

(d) the total cost of each hotel ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A loan