

(c) whether any legal action would be instituted against Shri S. K. Patil for not showing the donation in the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee accounts and, if, not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any action is proposed to be taken against the Company for showing a personal gift as a political donation and, if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) to (d). Inspection of the books of accounts of the company has been ordered under section 209(4) of the Companies Act, 1956. The inspection report is awaited.

Price of Capstan Brand Cigarettes

384. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Imperial Tobacco Company had been marketing Capstan brand cigarettes at Re. 1/- a packet before the February, 1970 Budget;

(b) whether this packet now sells at Rs. 1.30 per packet;

(c) whether soon after the Budget, the Company introduced another Capstan packet and marketed it at 55 paise.

(d) whether Government are aware that the second brand was introduced in order to confuse the consumer and make him feel that he is smoking the high priced Capstan at a reduced price; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that this new brand has been introduced by the Imperial Tobacco Company in order to indulge in unfair competition with their rivals marketing popular cigarettes in the medium price range ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b). The Imperial Tobacco Company were marketing Capstan Medium cigarettes at Rs. 1.25 per packet of ten cigarettes, and increased its price to Rs.1.30 per packet following the February 1970 Budget.

(c) The Company which had discontinued their Capstan Navy cut Magnum cigarette in 1947, reintroduced this brand in 1969.

(d) and (e). As these cigarettes are packed in different coloured packets, the Medium in white packets and the Magnum in blue, such confusion should not normally take place. There does not appear to be any element of unfair competition in the company reintroducing a medium priced cigarette which had earlier been sold by them.

Incidents in Public Sector Steel Plants.

385. SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that violent incidents have escalated in the public sector Steel Plants;

(b) if so, the opening of his Ministry, the labour Ministry and the Home Ministry regarding this phenomenon; and

(c) the decision taken by Government for the control of violent conflicts and lowering of tensions in the public sector Steel Plants ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHAMMED SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir.

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