

for import by bulk consumers to keep a check on prices of these tyres. To encourage creation of fresh capacity for the manufacture of automotive tyres and tubes, the industry has been exempted from licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Government have also ensured maximisation of tyre production through continuous monitoring and regular interaction with the industry.

Raw Materials for Plastic Industries

3810. SHRI SHYAM LAL KAMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether plastic packaging industries in private sector are on the verge of closure due to abnormal increase in the price of raw materials like polyester, plastic adhesives and polyester inks; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to reduce prices of the raw materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Consequent to the increase in price of petroleum products during the gulf crisis and also recently, as well as the exchange rate adjustment and other fiscal measures after Union Budget, prices of all petrochemical material including plastics have increased.

(b) There is no price control over petrochemical items including plastics.

Liability of Errant Multi-National Companies

3811. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether punitive action against errant companies is one of the best ways of raising health and safety standards;

(b) if so, after Bhopal Gas leak experience, what kinds of corporate liability the Government propose to establish; and

(c) how the Government propose to ensure multinational corporate liability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Factories (Amendment) Act places the responsibility for ensuring the safety, health and welfare of workers on the occupier. The emphasis has thus shifted from a prescriptive approach to one of self-regulation. The enforcement agency must impart technical guidance and use persuasive methods to see that the occupier discharges his statutory responsibility. In the event of serious or persistent default punitive measures should be adopted against the occupier.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests are proposing to bring up a comprehensive legislation for setting up a National Environment Tribunal which shall take care of Corporate Liability, including multinational Corporate liability.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation

3812. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has been incurring losses from its very inception in 1978;

(b) whether eight Chairman-cum-Managing Directors were appointed in the above undertaking during the period of thirteen years and none of them was allowed to complete his term of five years; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the total loss incurred by the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation so far has exceeded its total capital outlay.