

(c) what has been the total foreign exchange out go on Maruti project, including all imports of technology, spare parts etc. since inception and the total foreign exchange earned on export of an item which has not been developed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Maruti Udyog Ltd. has exported 2505 vehicles to Hungary till now. 670 cars are being shipped in the month of September, 1990. Another 330 cars are expected to be shipped by November, 1990.

(b) There is not financial loss being incurred on account of exports. The sale of cars to Hungary is in US dollars, and there is a sizeable net earning in hard currency as a result.

(c) The total foreign exchange expenditure till the end of 1989-90 since inception has been US\$ 852.69 million. The total foreign exchange earned during the same period was US\$ 62.42 million, through exports, deemed exports and domestic sale against foreign exchange.

Lighting on Coimbatore Airport

1885. **SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for lighting on airports;

(b) whether there is proper lighting arrangements in Coimbatore airport;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Rs. 50.00

lakhs approximately on ground lighting facilities for each airport.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

Outstanding dues of Bihar and West Bengal to Damodar Valley Corporation

1886. **SHRI K.S. RAO:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments of Bihar and West Bengal owe a high amount to the Damodar Valley Corporation for the power supplied to the Electricity Boards of these States;

(b) if so, the break-up of the amount due from each of the two States and since when;

(c) whether the D.V.C. has urged his Ministry to take up the matter with the two State Governments;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the State Governments; and

(e) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). On account of power supplied, the outstanding dues receivable by DVC upto end of July, 1990 are Rs. 202.19 crores from Bihar State Electricity Board, while a major portion of the dues has fallen into arrears from December, 1989 onwards three bills relate to April, 1986, June 1986 and November, 1986. In the case of West Bengal State Electricity Board, the dues have fallen into arrears from October, 1988 onwards, while two bills relate to April, 1987 and May, 1987.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. The matter has been

taken up with the State Governments concerned and is receiving their attention.

[*Translation*]

Check on Hike in Prices

1887. SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the wholesale and retail market prices of cement, bricks, iron (steel) rods fertilizer, angle iron, edible oil, vegetable oil in November 1989;

(b) the preset retail and wholesale market prices of the said commodities at the end of July, 1990;

(c) the reason for the spurt in the prices; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take towards price control?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Statement-I indicating the wholesale price indices of the specified items during November 1989 and during week ending 28.7.1990 and Statement-II containing the real/consumer prices are given below

(c) and (d). Cement: The main reasons for rise in the prices of cement are firming up of demand, rise in the cost of inputs and distribution costs and localised infrastructural/production constraints. The Government is closely and continually monitoring the availability of coal, wagons and other infrastructural support to the cement industry with a view of increasing production and making cement available in adequate quantities. The

State Governments have been requested to ensure that there is no profiteering at the retail level as also to intervene in the market by purchasing through their designated agencies in bulk and distributing it among the needy people.

Brick: The wholesale price index of fire-bricks show no increase during the period November, 1989 to end July, 1990. The retail prices of bricks during the period December, 1989 to March, 1990 (latest available data) show that there was no increase in Delhi, Madras and Bangalore. However, there was a marginal increase in the retail prices at Trivandrum.

Iron (steel rods and angle iron): Prices of some items produced by the integrated steel plants are administered by the integrated steel plants under the aegis of the Joint Plan Committee. Secondary producers fix their own prices depending on market conditions. The primary reasons for increase in the prices fixed by the Joint Plan Committee with regard to iron and steel items is the increase in the rates of excise duty made effective from 20.3.1990 as per the Central Budget for 1990-91.

Fertilizers: The wholesale price index of fertilizers remained unchanged during the period November 1989-July 1990. The same is true of the consumer prices for the farmers as well.

Edible Oil and Vegetable oil: Prices of edible oils have registered a sharp rise in recent months (particularly since December, 1989) due to a lower oil seeds crop in the 1989-90 season. In order to check the increase in their prices, several steps are being taken. These include, among other things, giving exemption/rebate on excise duties, reduction in stock limits on retailers and wholesalers, blending of conventional oils with non-conventional oils and stepping up of supplies of imported edible oils through