

श्री जतिहर सिंह : भायव मन्त्री महोदय को मालूम होगा कि सप्रैल और मई के महीनों में स्कूल-कालेजों के विद्यार्थियों के इस्तहान होते हैं, जिस के कारण बम्बई में, और उस के साथ-साथ सारे देश में, मिट्टी के तेल की खपत और मांग बढ़ जाती है। क्या मन्त्री महोदय इस बढ़ी हुई मांग को देखने हुए, वह प्रभो तक मिट्टी के तेल का जो कोटा रखे हुए हैं, उन में बड़ोतरी करने के बारे में सोच रहे हैं ?

श्री के० डी० घालवीय : बड़ोतरी की है, और और भी करेंगे ।

Increase in Prices of Synthetic Detergents produced by Hindustan Lever Limited

*489 SHRI S. M. BANERJEE
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited have increase their prices of synthetic detergents six times during the last one year and that prices have more than doubled during this period;

(b) if so, the justification therefor and action taken by Government.

(c) whether the Hindustan Lever Limited are offering fabulous consumer schemes on Surf and Vim which clearly shows that they can afford to decrease the prices of these products; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to persuade this foreign company to decrease the prices of their synthetic detergents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House. (a) and (b). The prices of synthetic detergents manufactured in the country including those of Hindustan Lever Ltd. have been increased from time to time mainly due to increase in the cost of major raw materials

detergent alkylate, a petrochemicals, and Sodium Tripoly Phosphate. Whereas the price for Surf (200 gms) was Rs. 1.77 in February 1974, it is Rs. 2.58 since February 1975.

(c) and (d) There is no control on the price of synthetic detergents. According to the manufacturers sales promotion by way of consumer incentive schemes is a normal trade practice, and it is understood that M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd. have incurred an expenditure of only about Rs. 30,000/- on such incentive schemes in case of Surf. In the case of Vim, the expenditure on consumer incentive schemes as reported by the manufacturer was 2.5 per cent of the turnover.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Lever Limited, a subsidiary of Unilever, London, a multinational corporation, obtained licence at Haldia for the production of STPP and at that time Government was taken for a ride that it would save oils used in the manufacture of soaps and instead synthetic detergents would be available to the consumers. Is it a fact that after Hindustan Lever were granted a licence during 1973, the prices of their Surf have registered a rise of 300 per cent and surf is already beyond the reach of a good number of people belonging to the vulnerable section of the society?

I would like to know whether Government is aware that surf, economy size, which was available for about Rs 4.25 per packet in January 1974 is now available at Rs. 10.75; vim which cost the consumer about Rs 1.50 last year is now costing Rs 2.75 rin which was introduced by the Company during 1972 at a price of 0.75 paise per tablet is now available at Rs. 1.80 or so per tablet.

I would like to know what action has been taken to see that they do not maximise their profits and remit the same to their principals in London. In 1973 alone they remitted as

much as Rs. 146 lakhs to London. I would like to know what action has been taken in this regard.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The main question that the hon. Member has asked is whether the price of surf and other detergents of Hindustan Lever has gone up. The answer is 'yes'. For instance, the price of surf in February 1974 was Rs. 1.77 and in February 1975 it has gone up to Rs. 2.58. According to the manufacturers, the prices of the major raw materials, i.e., detergent alkylate and STPP have gone up during this period, from December 1972 to July 1974; the price has gone up from Rs. 2,330 to Rs. 12,755 in respect of detergent alkylate, and it has gone up from Rs. 3,253 to Rs. 6,777, and to Rs. 8,216 in December 1974 in respect of STPP. According to the manufacturers, this is the reason for the increase in the prices of detergents.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would invite his kind attention to the fact that other companies like Mazda are selling detergent powder at Rs. 5/- per kilogram; they also say that it is a superior quality. No other household detergent is priced so much as surf. I also want to know whether it is a fact that recently the Hindustan Lever have advertised in the local papers announcing that a tin of vim will cost only 55 paise if somebody purchased two packets of surf. They offer a tin of Vim costing Rs. 2.75 at a concessional price of Re. 0.50 if a person buys two packets of Surf. But they are unable to reduce the price of Surf by Rs. 2 or Rs. 3. I would like to know whether any notice has been taken of this by the Government and whether any action will be taken against this multi-national giant, Hindustan Lever and whether ultimately the Government will have the courage and conviction to take it over in the larger interests of the consumer?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: It is a fact that the Hindustan Lever are doing some consumer incentive business.

According to them, it is a part of the trade pattern that exists here.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This concession is available in Delhi only and not in other places. What about other places?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The major point is that there is no price control. The point the hon. Member has raised about taking it over—we will try and look into it.... (Interruptions).

DR. KAILAS: Shri Banerjee has raised another point that other firms are offering at a reduced price. Why not the Hindustan Lever? Is this true?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Is there no price control? The Lever Brothers are playing havoc in the country.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Why was the price control lifted?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: There is no price control on detergents.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Why not have a profit-control?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: That is all right. I am only explaining the position.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: This is not a reply. We want to know why profit has not been controlled.

MR. SPEAKER: Question-Hour is over.

श्री भागवत झा आज़ाद : प्राफिट कंट्रोल क्यों नहीं होता है ? हम सब लोगों के घरों में पत्निया कहती है कि सिर्फ का दाम क्यों बढ़ा है ? इस का जवाब मन्त्री जी को देने दीजिये ।

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Have I your permission, Sir?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: That is the way of looting the consumers. Why do you use foreign brands?

MR. SPEAKER: It is already past 12 noon. I have already declared that the Question-Hour was over. In spite of that, you go on and the Minister wants my permission to reply. I simply fail to understand the attitude of the Member and the Minister. If you are so keen, you can make a statement. Or, I can allow an half-an-hour discussion, if you want.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: We want a discussion.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Multinational Corporations in India

*488. **SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2197 on the 26th November, 1974 regarding Multinational corporations in India and state:

(a) the total investment of the subsidiaries of the Multinational Corporations in Industrial, Pharmaceutical and Fertiliser sectors in 1973-74 and 1974-75;

(b) the particular of their investments in all other sectors in 1971-72, 1973-74 and 1974-75;

(c) the amount under various heads, these companies have remitted abroad, with details during 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75; and

(d) what are the reasons for Government not appointing its own directors in the Board of Directors of these companies under section 408(1) of Companies Act 1956?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) As on 31-3-1974, 200 subsidiaries of multinational corporations were operating in India. Balance Sheets of 113 of these subsidiaries for the year 1973-74 are available to date. Of these 113 subsidiaries, 87 fall in the industrial sector including pharmaceuticals and 26 in

other sectors. The total investment, i.e., the value of assets of the 87 subsidiaries in the industrial sector amounted to Rs. 828.05 crores in 1973-74, including assets amounting to Rs. 108.75 crores in respect of 12 subsidiaries operating in the pharmaceutical industry. There was one subsidiary company engaged in the manufacture of fertilisers in 1973-74 but its balance sheet is not available.

The data about the value of assets of the subsidiaries of multinational corporations for the year 1974-75 are not available, since a large number of Balance Sheets of these subsidiaries for this year are yet to be filed.

(b) The available information about the value of assets of the subsidiaries belonging to other sectors i.e. sectors excluding the industrial sector is given as under:—

Year	No. of Companies	value of Assets
		(Rs. crores)
1971-72	42	96.10
1973-74	26*	89.24

*Out of 113 subsidiaries for which the Balance Sheets have been received.

(c) According to the information maintained by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, the total amounts remitted abroad by Indian subsidiaries of multinationals under various heads in 1972-73 are as under:—

	(Rs. Crores)
1. Dividends	22.88
2. Technical Know-how	1.47
3. Royalties	1.09
4. Head-office expenses	0.02