

rations approved in the consumer goods industry in the last three years and the criteria therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Government's policy is that foreign collaboration, financial or technical, for the manufacture of consumer products is not ordinarily necessary. However, foreign collaboration for the manufacture of consumer products is considered selectively on merits of such collaboration is justified taking into consideration factors such as nature of technology involved, availability of indigenous technology and potential for export earnings.

The number of foreign collaborations approved during the last three years in consumer goods sector is as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of foreign collaborations approved</i>
1987	28
1988	27
1989	24

M/s. L.M.L. Ltd.

168 **SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected so far by L.M.L. Ltd., Kanpur, from the public as deposits for booking of vehicles;

(b) whether Government are aware that the registered applicants have neither got vehicles nor the refund of their deposits;

(c) whether there has been a Supreme Court judgement, and if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not giving effect to; and

(d) whether there have been any similar cases of misappropriation and mishandling of public funds by private companies and if so, the details thereof indicating corrective action taken/proposed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Company had called for bookings in Jan. - Feb. 1983. The total amount received by it as advance from the customers was nearly Rs. 116 crores on 23.19 lakh applications. According to the company, out of this a sum of around Rs. 82 crores has been refunded/adjusted against sale of scooter as on 30.6.1990.

(b) Mainly, the complaints have been about delay in refund of advance money on cancellation of bookings.

(c) No Supreme Court judgement on this subject has come to the notice of Government.

(d) Complaints about delay in refund of advance money have also been there against certain other private companies. Such complaints are forwarded to the manufacturers for remedial action.

The acceptance of advance money against booking is considered a contractual obligation between the customer and the company. However, with a view to safeguarding the customer's interest, Government have issued revised guidelines on 9.12.88 for acceptance and deployment of advance money by the automobile manufacturers.

[Translation]

Nagal-Talwara Railway Lines

169. **PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: