

announced. The Commission considered that the holding of such a contest was an unfair trade practice within the meaning of the MRTP Act, 1969 and has instituted an enquiry in the matter. The case is fixed for further hearing before the Commission on 1.5.1986. Messrs Wings Wear Private Limited, New Delhi, had issued an advertisement in 'Hindustan Times' dated 7.9.1985 announcing the opening of 'Exciting Fashion Centre' at Karol Bagh, New Delhi and offering prizes by draw of lots. In the case, the Commission felt that offering prizes by conducting a Lottery was an unfair practice within the meaning of the MRTP Act, 1969 and accordingly instituted an enquiry. The next hearing in this case is scheduled to be held before the Commission on 29.4.1986.

Private Companies to set up and operate Mobile Telephone Exchanges

4666. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to permit private companies to set up and operate mobile telephones exchanges in Metropolitan cities with royalty to Government;

(b) if so, under what terms and conditions; and

(c) how many companies have so far applied to the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of reply to para (a) above.

Coir Industry in Kerala

4667. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for Coir Industry in

Kerala being on a declining trend ;

(b) the steps taken to save it ; and

(c) the amount of assistance given to Coir Industry by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Successive years of unprecedented drought in Kerala in 1982 and 1983 and coconut wilt disease had adversely affected production of coconuts and availability of coconut husk, which is the basic raw material for coir industry. However, of late, there are signs of recovery.

(b) The Coconut Board has taken certain measures to eradicate wilt disease. The steps taken to save the situation within these constraints include : relaxation on movement of coconut husk from surplus to deficit areas under Cocount Husk Control Order, grant of cash Compensatory support on f. o. b. value of exports, etc.

(c) Against actual expenditure of Rs. 8.37 crores in the Sixth Plan, a provision of Rs.17.84 crores has been made in the Seventh Plan for the development of Coir Industry.

Sick units under MRTP and FERA companies

4668. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick units controlled by MRTP and FERA companies with names of such units; and

(b) the number of these sick units in the large medium and small sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks are collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. According to the latest data available