

(a) whether Government have been taken any steps to save the consumer from purchase of counterfeit goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Provisions for protection of consumers against unfair trade practices are contained in CH. V-B (Sec. 36-A to 36-E) of the MRTP Act, 1969, which have been introduced by the MRTP (Amendment) Act, 1984. Complaints from consumers which relate to counterfeit goods fall within the provisions of Section 36-A(i) of the Act and the Commission takes action on such complaints as provided for under the said Act.

The Government has also enacted a comprehensive consumer protection legislation, namely, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which envisages three-tier quasi-judicial machinery at national, state and district level to deal with the cases of defective goods and services, unfair trade practices etc.

Patent for Cardamom Cola

7687. SHRI H.A. DORA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board has applied for patent for Cardamom Cola:

(b) if so, the details thereto; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

Project to produce Aminoacids

7688. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project to produce aminoacids from human hair has been started in Pondicherry for export;

(b) whether the export arrangements have been finalised and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the approximate foreign exchange likely to be generated therefrom; and

(d) whether the commercial production has since started?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d). M/s Protchem Industries (India) Limited had applied for permission to produce amino acids from human hair for 100% export in Pondicherry and they have been given a Letter of Intent. Abond has been executed with the Jt. CCI&E, Madras on 10.2.1988 for finalising export obligation. In their application the company has indicated foreign exchange earnings of Rs. 567 lakhs. To the extent information is available, commercial production is yet to start.

Employment of Local People in LPG Unit of BPCL in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh

7689. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH:
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation that local people are not

getting adequate benefit of employment in the LPG Unit of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited near Kondapalli village in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Upgradation of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

7690. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to restructure the post offices set up in Andhra Pradesh in view of the new revenue Mandal set up which has replaced the Taluk set up; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to upgrade the extra departmental branch post offices located in the mandal headquarters to the status of extra departmental sub-post offices to facilitate receipt of telephone bills from the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Restoration of Status of ED Sub Post Offices downgraded in Himachal Pradesh

7691. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Extra Departmental Sub-Post Offices, district-wise downgraded to the status of extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh during the Seventh Plan on the plea that these EDBOs had been upgraded earlier on account of P.C.O. facility installed in them;

(b) whether a request has been received by Government for restoration of the status of the downgraded EDBOS so as to provide the Postal and Telecom. facilities for a longer period in the rural areas served by these Post Offices after restoration to their original status; and

(c) if so, the likely date which the restoration would be ordered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The information is furnished in the Annexure. However, the reason for downgrading these offices was inadequate workload.

(b) Yes Sir, The request was, however, with particular reference following branch offices,

1. Kathog 2. Bagli 3. Challali 4. Barail 5. Kiroha 6. Swahan 7. Naswal 8. Behani 9. Jhaniari 10. Deothsid 11. Lohara 12. Kungret 13. Palukwah 14. Barsalbasar 15. Masroor 16. Sunhat.

(c) In view of the constraints involved, Postmaster General, Himachal Pradesh Circle has a **bewen** asked to ascertain from the State Government whether Non-Returnable Contribution (NRG) could be offered for the upgrading of same of the branch offices. The report of the PMG is awaited.

V.H.F. Links

7692. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-