

### Increase in Prices of Soaps

3697. SHRI BANAMALI BABU:  
SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of soaps have gone up by 100 per cent during the last one year; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to supply raw material to soap industry in order to bring down the prices of soaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHINAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). More than half of the soap production in the country is by the small scale sector on which there is no price control. In case of soaps produced by the organised sector except the premium grade toilet soaps, there is an informal price control whereby the Indian Soaps and Toilettries Makers' Association consult Government before making any upward revision in the prices.

In the year 1973 the following increases in the prices of soaps were permitted with effect from 20-7-1973 due to increase in the price of indigenous oils and imported fatty material:

Toilet soap	(cake 100 gms)	— 11	paise per cake.
Carbolic soap	(cake 150 gms)	— 9	paise per cake.
Laundry soap	(cake 150 gms)	— 6	paise per cake.
Laundry soap		— 42	paise per kg.

No increase in prices of soaps has been allowed thereafter so far. It is, however, understood from M/s. Tata Oil Mills Co. Limited that they have increased the price of laundry soap ( $\frac{1}{2}$  bar weighing 270 gms) from Rs. 1.28 to Rs. 1.50 with effect from 7th June, 1974. A representation submitted by the Indian Soap and Toilettries Makers' Association for increase in the soap prices due to increase in oil costs is being examined by Government.

There is no proposal under the consideration of Government to undertake the supply of raw materials to the soap industry.

### Employment to Children and Dependents of Loyal Workers during strike

3698. SHRIMATI PREMILABAI CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment was promised to children and dependents of Railwaymen who did not take part in the last Railway strike; and

(b) if so, the number of persons so employed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No. However, following an earlier announcement by the Minister of Railways in Parliament in the wake of a number of agitation and work stoppages on the Railways, that services of loyal staff would not go unrecognised, a decision was taken in February, 1974 to offer employment to sons or daughters of loyal railway employees to the extent of 20 per cent of the vacancies in initial recruitment grades.

(b) About 3,000 so far.

### Delay in Allotment of Gas Agencies to Ex-Servicemen

3699. SHRI RANA BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many cases of unreasonable delays