

the consumers from those shopkeepers who earn maximum profit by selling their poor quality, defected and cheap material at a normal price;

(b) whether the Government propose to develop any policy under which the consumer could get back the entire amount alongwith the penalty from such shopkeepers in case of sale of such materials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) A number of steps have been taken to protect the interest of the consumers. These include the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, with the objective of providing a quasi-judicial mechanism for speedy settlement of consumer disputes in the field of defective goods, deficient services, unfair trade practices, restrictive trade practices etc. This Act applies to all good and services. In case of any defective goods or deficiency in services etc., the consumers are free to approach the Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies for necessary relief/compensation, for which no fee is charged.

Further, the Government of India have also brought out a number of Quality Control Orders to enforce the mandatory Certification Mark Licensing Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on certain products having a bearing on safety and health factors. The presence of BIS Certification Mark guarantees conformity of such product to the relevant Indian standard. In case a BIS licence supplies any product bearing BIS certification mark but the product is found to be not conforming to the standard, BIS directs the licensee to replace the defective product and the licensee is also liable for action under BIS Act, 1986 and its Regulations.

#### **Hiring of Vehicles by Police**

5915. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Delhi Police hire private vehicles for the other forces which have stationed at Delhi engaged for security duty;

(b) if so, whether only TATA 407 open body private vehicles are hired whereas closed body metadors are more comfortable than the open body vehicles;

(c) if so, the specific reasons for hiring the open body TATA 407 vehicles instead of closed body metadors; and

(d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard and also to hire the closed body metadors for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The outside forces require the vehicles not only for transportation of their Jawans but also to supply food articles to them. Tata 407 (Commercial) vehicles with a soft top of Tarpauline and side-ways seating arrangement are considered more convenient for this purpose than the closed body matadors. Delhi Police also provide hired buses to meet the requirement of outside forces.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Price Fixation of Daily use Commodities**

5916. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the industrialists fix prices of commodities of daily use such as soaps, medicines, soft drink, toothpaste, match-box ten to thirty times more than their production cost to earn huge profits;

(b) whether it is not an inhuman exploitation of the consumers;

(c) if so, the action being contemplated by the Government to fix the prices rationally;

(d) whether the Government propose to constitute a committee for this purpose;

(e) if not, whether a Price Determination Committee would be constituted immediately to fix the prices of these commodities to save the consumers from exploitation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) As far as drugs are concerned, the prices of scheduled formulations under Drug Price Control Order, 1995 are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority/Government as per the provisions laid down in the said Order. The prices of non-scheduled formulations are fixed by the companies themselves. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has not received any information that industrialists are fixing the prices of medicines ten to thirty times more than production cost to earn huge profits.

The soap industry, excluding laundry soap, falls in the delicensed category. Laundry soap, toothpaste