

(c) Scuffing on tyres means localised hardware of tyres, which occurs, sometimes, due to the mal-functioning of the brake Antiskid system. However, the brake Antiskid system is electronically and hydraulically tested at regular intervals to ensure its proper functioning.

Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in India

71. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sri Lankan Tamils who have arrived in India as refugees during the last three months;

(b) whether Government are aware of the reports which appeared in the press to the effect that the Sri Lankan authorities have issued an ultimatum to Tamils in that country to vacate the Island by the 15th of March, 1985; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by the Government of India to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Since the beginning of February 1985, a total of 2722 Sri Lankan Tamil families comprising 11325 members, have arrived in Rameshwaram as refugees from Sri Lanka. This number is in addition to over 50,000 who came after the July 1983 disturbances in Sri Lanka and continue to be in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) does not arise.

Pollution by Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilisers Plant at Chembur, Bombay

72. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilisers Plant at Chembur, Bombay is belching huge quantity of nitrous oxide into the atmosphere;

(b) whether Government have made any study to its hazardous effect; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government to protect the populated area of Chembur from after effects of pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN):

(a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

Immigration Policy followed by United Kingdom

73. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of recent report appearing in a section of the Press terming the Immigration policy of United Kingdom as racial and also reported by the Commission for racial equality a statutory body, to be particularly disadvantageous to the people coming from India and other non-white countries; and

(b) whether the matter has been taken up with the British Government and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various aspects of immigration policy of U.K. have been taken up, from time to time, at various levels, with the British Government. The Report, which has just been published, is under examination. Any new points which have not already been taken up with the British Government would be taken up with them.

Air Pollution in Delhi

74. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the problem of air pollution in Delhi has reached at warranting point;

(b) whether it is a fact that Delhi has been ranked as the third grubbier city in the world in a recent study conducted by the World Health Organisation on urban air pollution; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government to control the air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such conclusive finding has been brought to the attention of the Government. However, according to a WHO study on urban air pollution, the suspended particulate matter (air-borne dust) in Delhi is considerably high in certain parts on account of natural conditions and industrial activities.

(c) The action being taken include the following:

(i) The industries are persuaded to instal pollution control equipment and legal actions are taken against the erring units;

(ii) Incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting units from the congested areas;

(iii) Under the industrial licensing system, for site selection and issue of licences, a procedure has been established for environmental evaluation of industries which are polluting in nature.

(iv) Steps are also being taken to maintain adequate tree cover for acting as a protective barrier against the air-borne dust.

Promotion of Computer manufacture in the country

75. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only a few months back certain conces-

sions like reduction in excise and import duties were announced by Government to encourage computer manufacture and their progressive assembly in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the recent Government notification not only excise duty was to be charged on peripherals which were imported but also 20 per cent would be charged on technical services by computer manufacturers with retrospective effect;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to promote computer manufacturing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (d) Following the Revised Computer Policy announced by Government on November 19, 1984, Customs Duty concessions have been announced for imported components/parts required for the manufacture of computer and computer peripherals. The Revised Policy also provides for removal of capacity constraints to make the units more viable and for further liberalisation of import of technology.

(b) and (c) No such information has come to our knowledge.

Linking up of Science and Technology for effective implementation of the Seventh Plan

76. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to effect some structural changes to link-up science and technology for effective implementation of the Seventh Plan;