

of the Companies Act, 1956 alleging *inter-alia* that Sime-Darby Barhad, a company incorporated in Malaysia holding 38.7 per cent of the equity shares of Shaw Wallace & Co. Ltd. through its subsidiary M/s R. G. Shah and Co. Ltd. and its three subsidiaries—all incorporated in the U.K., have sold its holding in the U.K. companies to an unidentified overseas company. On consideration thereof the Company Law Board by an order dated 16th February, 1985 appointed an Inspector under section 247 of the Companies Act, 1956 to investigate into the present ownership of the shares of the said company. The Board has also passed an order dated 16-2-1985 under section 250 of the Companies Act, 1956 imposing certain restrictions on the transfer and voting rights in respect of shares and change in the composition of the Board of Directors of the company for a period of one year.

#### Fire accidents in Kerala

710. SHRI L. GANESAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI K. MOHANAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of fire accidents took place in Kerala recently due to large-scale adulteration of kerosene; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA):

(a) and (b) During February and March, 1985 some incidents of accidental fire caused by contaminated kerosene oil occurred in Alleppey, Ernakulam, Trichur, Palghat and Malappuram districts of Kerala. These accidents took place on account of the kerosene oil having become contaminated with Naphtha/Motor Spirit. Supplies of this contaminated Kerosene oil came from the Cochin terminal of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. As on the 18th March, 17

persons had died and 151 injured. The Corporation has contributed Rs. 7.00 lakhs to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund with a view to extending relief to the affected families.

Apart from the investigation being made by the DIG, Crime Branch, Kerala State into the cases registered, an enquiry by a High Level Technical Committee has been ordered. Its report is expected in the first week of April, 1985. In the meantime, the following other steps have been taken in this connection:

(i) All supplies from the tank suspected to be contaminated have been stopped and the tank has been sealed.

(ii) Supplies earlier made from this tank have been frozen by the State Government and are being withdrawn from the wholesale and retail points.

(iii) The State Government has instructed the District Collectors to make ex-gratia payments to the affected families.

#### Central Investment in Chemical Industry in West Bengal

711. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make large-scale investment in Chemical industries in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) Government does not have any proposal at present to make new large scale Central Public sector investment in Chemical Industry in West Bengal.