

Investigation against M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited

1310. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations are in progress under the MRTP Act against M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited;

(b) if so, what is the number and the details of such investigations, and the progress thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that responsible agencies in the trade and other public institutions have offered to assist the Government in the matter of such investigation; and

(d) if so, to what use, if any such assistance has been put to?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The investigations by the MRTP Commission in the following cases against M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited, are in progress:—

(1) A complaint was received from M/s. Cheap General Store, Rewari on 21-5-1982 alleging that M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited have been indulging in the restrictive trade practices of tie-up sales by forcing the consumers to purchase the slow moving product of Life-buoy soap with the fast moving product of Lux soap.

(2) A complaint dated 21-5-1982 was received from M/s. Richardsa Gulabchandsa Jain, Khandwa, M.P. alleging tie-up sales by compelling retail dealers to purchase detergent goods with bathing soaps.

(3) Under a letter dated 13-11-1982 addressed to the Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Inderjit Gupta, M.P. alleged that M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited are indulging in full

line forcing tie-up sales and uniformity of prices.

(4) The Commission has also instituted an investigation on the basis of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2674 answered on 19.10.1982 regarding a News-item: "Spurious packets of Nirma Washing Powder" published in the magazine 'India Today' (September 1-15, 1982).

(c) and (d) No Sir, except that Shri Inderjit Gupta, M.P. in his letter dated 13-11-1982 addressed to the Law Minister, has *inter-alia*, stated that in case the Commission finds that its investigations are blocked for one reason or the other, they may get in touch with him. The Commission is aware of this offer.

Demand of the U.N.I. employees

1311. SHRIMATI MATMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government from the United News of India employees federation on the demand to give weightage of service in fixation of wages of news agency employees as provided for in the case of newspaper employees in the Palekar Tribunal Award;

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

(c) what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) A representation has recently been received from the UNI Employees' Federation stating that though newspaper employees have been given benefit of weightage of service in fixing pay, such benefit has not been given to employees of news agency under the recommendations of Palekar Tribunal as accepted by Government. The Federation has decided to challenge the same and apply for modifications of