

Contract labourers in BHEL

2237. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about eight hundred Safai Mazdoors employed on a contract basis in BHEL, Hardwar; and

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken by Government to put them on a regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) No, Sir. However, since the quantum and periodicity of the sweeping and clearing work is of variable nature, it has been contracted out wherein the contracting agencies have approximately engaged 324 persons to execute such works in BHEL, Hardwar, including the township.

(b) As these persons are not on the rolls of BHEL, the question of their regularisation by BHEL does not arise.

Payment of interest on deposits by Bajaj, TELCO and Ashok Leyland

2238. SHRI SURESH KALMA-DI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the auto manufacturers—Bajaj, TELCO and Ashok Leyland have paid any interest on the deposits received from the intending customers, which runs into crores;

(b) whether the deposit money was used by these companies before the actual delivery of the vehicles to the customers; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of the customers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) M/s. TELCO have reported that they have paid interest on the deposits annually at 12 per cent per annum. M/s. Ashok Leyland have stated that interest has been paid at 12 per cent per annum every half year. M/s. Bajaj Tempo Ltd. allow interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum which is adjusted alongwith the deposit in the price of the vehicle when delivered. The deposits collected are utilised for meeting the working capital requirements of the firms.

(c) Does not arise.

Tiny match units of KVIC

2239. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tiny match units which have been sponsored by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the States (State-wise) enjoying the concessional rate of excise duty at Rs. 1.60 per gross; and

(b) the manner in which the KVIC exercises its supervision to ensure that the tiny units do not evade excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) There are 429 working match units in different states which are financed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission directly or through the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards. The State-wise details of these units are given in the Annexure.

(b) Statutory responsibility for ensuring that there is no evasion of excise duty and that the units claiming the concessional rates of excise fulfil the legal require-