

have agreed to bring down prices of their products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b) Since the proclamation of Emergency and following negotiations with the main manufacturers, prices have been brought down in respect of safety matches, Janata soap, toilet soap, laundry soap, common brands of tea and baby food.

Soon after the recent Budget proposals were presented, it was agreed by representatives of manufacturers that the prices of manufactured items benefiting from the budget proposals would be reduced. Accordingly price reductions have been effected in respect of several brands of manufactured items relating to toilet soap, washing soap, detergents, metal clad dry battery cells and cigarettes.

**Continuance in Posts by Persons Against whom Inquiries are in Progress**

782. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is the policy of Government that the persons against whom Government inquiries are in progress should continue in their posts and positions; and

(b) if so, how Government can ensure fair inquiry in such cases and see that no tampering is made in the records or the inquiry official is not influenced in any way ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b) Public interest is the guiding factor in deciding whether an officer against whom an inquiry/investigation is in progress should be allowed to continue in his post

and position or whether he should be placed under suspension or transferred, and a decision is taken in each case on its merits. Guidelines have, however, been laid down indicating *inter alia* that a disciplinary authority may place a Government servant under suspension where his continuance in office is likely to prejudice the investigation, trial or inquiry in any manner.

**†Special Relief Fund for Coal Mine Workers**

783. SHRI D. N. DWIVEDI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create a Special permanent fund to provide relief to the family members of the victims of unforeseen accidents in coal mines; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) At the instance of the Government of India, the Coal India Limited are preparing a scheme for providing relief to the family members of coal miners involved in accidents.

**‡Consumption and productions of alkyd and epoxy resins**

784. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total annual consumption of alkyd and epoxy resins in India at present;

†Transferred from the 19th March, 1976. (Previously numbered as Unstarred Question No. 414).

‡Transferred from the 22nd March, 1976. (Previously numbered as Unstarred Question No. 443).