

Report of BICP on tyre prices

188. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Price on the rise in price of tyres manufactured in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tyre manufacturers were advised by Government not to raise the price of tyres before the report of the BICP was received ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the tyre manufacturers have ignored this advice and raised the price of tyres ;

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard and the extents to which the price of tyres have been so raised ; and

(f) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An edited version of the Report has been made public and copies of the same are available in the Parliament Library for ready reference.

(c) to (f) There is no statutory control on the prices/distribution of tyres at present. In the absence of control on prices of raw materials and conversion costs and the prevailing competitive market conditions, prices are determined by market forces of demand and supply. According to Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association, an apex body of the tyre manufacturers, the recent price increase has been restricted to 5% on tyres and 6 to 7% on tubes against

full unabsorbed cost increase of 9.68% and 13.66% respectively. The Government has been using persuasive methods by interacting with both the tyre industry and raw material manufacturers in the matter.

Ingredients in toilet soaps

189. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that several consumer organisations like Consumer Education and Research centre, Ahmedabad; Consumer Guidance Society of India, Bombay etc. have done study about the ingredients contained and price per gram of different varieties of popular toilet soaps ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a flood of different brands of toilet soaps, mostly costly in the market ;

(c) whether the CERC has made any observations that basic ingredients in all toilet soaps are generally the same and it is mainly, the packing and publicity which give rise to high prices of so called luxury soaps ;

(d) what are the other observations of the CERC ; and

(e) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereof and what action has been taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to the information available with Government no such reports/studies have been received from Voluntary Consumer Organisations.

(b) Manufacturers of soaps have been introducing new brands as a part of their marketing strategy, both in cheap and costly varieties of