

than production in the corresponding quarter last year (January-March 1979) as also during the preceding quarter (October-December 1979). This was achieved despite production constraints including power shortages, higher cost of raw materials and existence of old and obsolete technology which, in varying degree affected individual units. The steps being taken to optimise utilisation of capacities include: better production planning, modernisation of plant and machinery adoption of appropriate technology, increased participation of workers in management and intensive monitoring and co-ordination.

**Representation from Kerala Dinesh Beedi Workers Cooperative Society**

\*78. SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Kerala Dinesh Beedi Workers Cooperative Society regarding abolition of tax from labelled beedies;

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

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main points raised in the representation relate to:—

(i) withdrawal of Central Excise duty on Beedis and introducing an equal amount of duty on tobacco.

(ii) introducing Banderoll system on Beedis like match boxes, so as to distinguish between duty paid and non duty paid beedis.

(iii) strengthening the machinery for detecting illegal production of spurious beedis.

(iv) granting financial assistance of Rs. 2 crores by way of loan and grant for construction of offices and work centres.

(c) The points relating to excise duty are under examination. Regarding the grant of funds for the various societies for construction of office building and working centres, the Government of India does not have any scheme of giving such assistance.

**Road accidents in Delhi**

\*79. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI:

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi is leading in the country in fatal road accidents;

(b) if so, what are the figures for year 1979-80;

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the number of road accidents; and

(d) how many court cases in respect of road accidents in Delhi were launched during the last three years and what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Figures of fatal road accidents for 1979-80 in respect of other metropolitan cities in the country are being collected.

(b) During the period from 1-4-1979 to 31-3-1980 in Delhi, there were a total number of 690 fatal road accidents.

(c) The following steps have been taken:—

(i) The maximum speed limit for various types of vehicles has been specified and speed governors