

At present the capacity utilisation of the automotive tyres industry and bicycle tyre industry is 88 per cent and 93 per cent respectively. The tyre industry, like other rubber-based goods industry, has faced a shortage of natural rubber since April '78. In view of the shortage and rising prices of indigenous natural rubber, Government arranged import of 15,000 tonnes of natural rubber through STC in October, 1978. Further import of 15,000 tonnes of natural rubber is also being arranged to meet the gap between demand and available supplies.

The automotive tyre industry also faced shortage of some of the raw materials like synthetic rubber and carbon black. Import of synthetic rubber (SBR) is being allowed to actual users on restricted basis to overcome the shortage which has occurred due to production problems in M/s. Synthetic and Chemicals, Bareilly, which is the only unit manufacturing SBR. There was shortage of carbon black too, on account of strike in one of the units producing this raw material for the tyre industry. Import of this raw material input is also being permitted to actual users on restricted basis.

Due to the high cost of major raw material inputs, the cost of automotive tyres, in general, has gone up. However, as stated earlier, production of automotive and bicycle tyres in the organised sector is increasing and Government are giving all the facilities to actual users to import raw materials which are in short supply.

Traditional craftsmen and artisans of Delhi city

1262. SHRI SHIVDAYAL SINGH
CHAURASIA:

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN:

SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL
URF PIARE LALL
TALIB:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic condition of traditional

craftsmen and the artisans of the walled city of Delhi are deplorable;

(b) whether it is also a fact that middlemen are exploiting them; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to enable these artisans to avoid middlemen's exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI
JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a)
Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government have recently decided on a special credit policy for assisting villages and small Industry artisans including traditional craftsmen. This is an important first step in combating exploitation by the middlemen.

Advertisements by BHEL

1263. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI T. ANJIAH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state what is the amount spent on advertisements by BHEL during 1977-78 and to whom advertisements are given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI
ABHA MAITI): The expenditure incurred by BHEL on advertisements was of the order of Rs. 40 lakhs in 1977-78. This included a sum of about Rs. 15 lakhs for inviting tenders and about Rs. 7 lakhs for advertisements for recruitment to the vacancies in the company. These were released to publications like daily newspapers, periodicals, scientific and technical journals, brochures etc.

**Death of a school boy on the crossing
of Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi**

1264. SHRIMATI MARGARET
ALVA:
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMO.
DARA MENON:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHAN-
KAR ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME
AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the