

Co. Ltd. and Indian General Navigation & Railwaj- Co. Ltd.—popularly known as Joint Steamer Companies) and not National River Steamship Co. prior to 1965 between Calcutta and Assam *via* erstwhile East Pakistan now Bangladesh, used to serve the major transport needs of the North eastern States.

(b) Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd., a Central Government Undertaking is running river transport services between (i) Calcutta and Gauhati; and (ii) Calcutta and Karimganj, *via* Bangladesh. The Corporation has also introduced integrated river-cum-road services between Calcutta and Karimganj. Agartala (Tripura) to serve the needs of these remote areas.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Increase in the prices of tyres and tubes**

2W. SHRI SYED AHMAD HAS-  
SjrTMI: SHRI SWAMI  
DINESH  
CHANDRA: SHRIMATI SUSHILA  
SHAN-KAR ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of almost all types of automobile tyres and tubes have been raised for the fourth time during the current year;

(b) if so, how far the prices of different types and brands of tyres and tubes have been raised each time; and

(c) what are the reasons for raising the prices and what steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of these essential consumer items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (c) The tyre manufacturers raised

the prices of various categories of tyres and tubes in the last week of March, 1978. Subsequently also they increased the prices of automobile tyres and tubes. A statement showing the increase in whole-sale prices of automobile tyres and for the period from January, 1977 to October, 1978 is attached. [See Appendix CVII Annexure No. 19.] The tyre manufacturing companies have stated that they have been compelled to increase the prices of automobile tyres and tubas owing to increase in the cost of various inputs, higher cost of production and excise duty as well as financial problems faced by them. As there is no statutory control on prices of tyres and tubes, the tyre companies are not required to obtain Government's approval for the increase in prices.

#### **Screening of smuggled foreign films**

283. SHRI GHOSH MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some smuggled foreign films with forged certificates have been screened in some States during the last three years; and

(b) if so, what is the number of such films screened and what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SH LAL K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) One case of such violation came to the notice of the Board of Film Censors recently. With the help of the State Government the print of the film has been seized. The State Government has been requested to take further action in accordance with the provisions of law.