

(b) During the cotton years 1976-77 and 1977-78, the Cotton Corporation of India purchased about 5.35 lakh bales and 6.62 lakh bales of indigenous cotton respectively.

#### Closure of jute and textile mills

306. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: 'Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of (i) jute mills, and (ii) textile mills, which are lying closed at present;

(b) what is the number of units among them which are likely to be re-opened by the 31st March, 1979; and

(c) what is the number of closed textile and jute mills which have been reopened since the 1st January, 1978?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Five jute mills and 18 textile mills are lying closed at present.

(b) Four jute mills are likely to be re-opened by the 31st March, 1979.

Textiles mills have closed on account of the various factors like labour troubles, lock-out, financial crisis, mismanagement etc. The reasons for closure varies from case to case and remedial action will also vary in each case. It is, therefore, not possible to say anything about number of textiles mills likely to be re-opened by the 31st March, 1979.

(c) Out of 6 jute mills which were have since reopened. Out of the 38 textile mills lying closed at the end of December, 1977, 24 mills have since reopened.

#### Increase in the price of tyres and tubes

307. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:  
SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB  
BURMAN:  
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of tyres and tubes have been

raised by the tyre manufactures recently by about 40 per cent without Government's approval;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government had summoned the executives of all the tyre manufacturing companies to New Delhi to seek their explanation regarding the increase in the prices of tyres and tubes; and

(d) if so, what are the details of their explanation and what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) The tyre manufacturing companies have recently increased the prices of various categories of tyres and tubes. The percentage of increase varies from company to company. Details of the price increase are given in the attached statements. [See Appendix CVII Annexure No. 19] As there is no statutory control on the prices of tyres and tubes, the tyre companies are not required to obtain Government's approval for effecting increase in the prices of their products.

(c) The executives of the tyre manufacturing companies met the concerned official of this Ministry in response to the letter issued to them asking them to give details of the increase in the prices effected by them.

(d) They stated that they were compelled to increase the prices of tyres and tubes owing to increase in the cost of various inputs, higher cost of production and excise duty as well as financial problems faced by them. However, as there is no statutory control over the prices of tyres and tubes, the question of taking any action does not arise.