

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. B. RANA): (a) and (b) M/s. Union Carbide (India) Limited have been issued a letter of intent on the 26th September, 1973 for the manufacture of processed marine products for an annual capacity of 5,000 tonnes of shrimps and 500 tonnes of other fish. The Letter of Intent has not yet been converted into an industrial licence. The firm was given import licence for the import of two fishing vessels in 1968 and they have since been imported.

Closure of Cement factories

265. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cement factories are closed and several workers laid off in South India due to coal and wagon shortages;

(b) if so, which are the factories and what is the number of workers laid off; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to re-open the factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. B. RANA): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

The requirement of coal for the cement industry has been assessed at 5.20 lakh tonnes per month against which an allocation of 4.57 lakhs tonnes only per month could be planned. However, the actual supplies of coal to cement factories during the period September, 1973 to March, 1974 were much lower, varying between 2.66 lakh tonnes and 3.47 lakh tonnes per month.

As a result, some of the cement factories in the South had either closed or laid off workers for varying periods according to the coal stock position in the respective factories. The following factories

in the South had to close or lay off the workers:—

1. Dalmia Cements (Bharat), Dalmiapuram—1400 workers laid off from 4-3-74.

2. India Cements, Talayuthu—About 25% of workers laid off.

3. India Cements, Sankridurg—About 30% of workers laid off.

4. Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation, Alangulam—Closed since 6-4-74. No lay off of workers. Likely to reopen on 30-4-74.

No lay off the workers has been reported from other factories in the South.

The Railways and the concerned Coal Authorities have been requested to rush supplies of coal to the affected factories.

Sale of Bicycle Rims

266. SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Punjab bicycle weekly report' of February 9, 1974 to the effect that Good Year India Limited is charging an arbitrary price of Rs. 34.65 per pair of bicycle rims while its market rate has been fixed at Rs. 28; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. B. RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. But M/s. Good Year India Ltd., are not licensed or registered for the manufacture of bicycle rims. However, the trading activities of this Company will attract the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, as amended, and the M.R.T.P. Act, wherever applicable. The Government have not fixed a selling price for bicycle rims.