

lopment and Regulation) Act, 1951, no licence was required to be obtained under the Act

Sir, I may give this information also to the hon. Members that since last year, they have ceased to produce these things, because they have not found it profitable to produce them.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS: Can the hon. Minister tell me as to why did they start manufacturing and why did they stop?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: They should not have stopped.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Being a commercial organisation they thought they would make profit out of it. But they were making losses. Therefore, they have stopped it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question

Disparity in the prices of raw material for tyres and tubes

*533. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM †
DR R. K. CHAKRABARTI:
MISS SAROJ PURUSHOT-
TAM KHAPARDE:

SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-
VIYA:

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that wide disparity in the prices of raw materials, both imported and indigenous, poses a

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House, by Shrimati Aziza Imam.

serious problem for exporters of automobile tyres and tubes;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM). (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

The chief raw materials required for the manufacture of automobile tyres and tubes are natural rubber, synthetic rubber, reclaimed rubber, rayon/nylon tyre chord/fabric, carbon black, rubber chemicals, zinc oxide, lead wire, tube valves etc. While it is true that the prices of certain raw materials in India are higher than the c.i.f. import prices, the disparity in prices cannot be considered as wide except in the case of nylon tyre yarn and miscellaneous chemicals like anti-oxidants. And recently international prices of these raw materials have gone up to a considerable extent. However the disparity in prices cannot pose any serious problems for exports of tyres.

The exporters of tyres and tubes are given import replacement licences to the extent of 50% of the f.o.b. value of exports of nylon tyres and butyl tubes and 30% for other tyres and tubes. These imports should off-set any disadvantage that exporters may face on account of raw material prices. They are also given a cash subsidy of 20% (for nylon tyres and butyl tubes) to 25% (for all other tyres and tubes) and draw back of excise and customs duties which vary depending on the estimates of such duties paid by the exporters.

The export of automobile tyres and tubes during 1970-71 was Rs. 540.21 lakhs; and during 1971-72 Rs. 627.31 lakhs. During 1972-73, it was lower at Rs. 472.42 lakhs, mainly due to lower production on account of power shortage and other factors.

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: I have no question to ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Harsh Deo Malaviya.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: No question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Miss Khaparde

MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE: No question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us go to the next question.

Setting up of a Newsprint Corporation

*534. SHRI KRISHAN KANT:†

DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

SHRI J. S. TILAK:

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH MUSAFIR:

SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Newsprint Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet finalised.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, I would like to know how long the Government will take to finally decide the matter of formation of a Newsprint Corporation.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, the matter is in the final stages and a decision will be taken very soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Enquiry into the death of Shri Rudra Narain Jha, Ex-M.P.

*530. SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any enquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Rudra Narain Jha, Ex-M.P.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) and (b) On the request of the Government of Bihar, the case has been investigated by the CBI and a challan put up in the Court u/s 279/304A IPC for having caused death by negligence. The case is now *sub judice*.

Use of burnt clay and puzzolana in concrete foundations

*531. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE