

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) :

(a) The United States Government have extended a loan of Rs. 75 lakhs from out of PL 480 funds to Messrs Madras Rubber Factory Ltd., Madras, for achieving the full production capacity in respect of their scheme for the manufacture of automobile tyres and tubes and implementing the project for the manufacture of bicycle tyres and tubes for which the firm has already been granted licences under the Industries. (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

(b) and (c) The existing and proposed 'capacities after expanding the production by 5% in terms of Government Notification dated 7-12-1967 will be as indicated below :—

Item of manufacture	Present capacity	Capacity after implementation of the scheme
1. Automobile tyres . . .	360,000 Nos.	450,000 Nos.
2. Automobile tubes . . .	360,000 Nos.	450,000 Nos.
3. Tread Rubber	3.95 million Kg.	4.94 million Kg.
4. Bicycle tyres and tubes	(New item)	20,00,000 Nos.

VISIT OF OFFICIALS OF GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION OF U.S.A.

639. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of officials of General Motors Corporation of the United States visited India in January, 1969; and

(b) if so, what was the purpose of their visit ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) :

(a) Yes.

(b) The purpose of the visit was to investigate the extent and scope of purchases of automobile parts and components including castings that could be effected from Hindustan Motors for supply to General Motors' European plants.

EXPORTS OF RAILS TO IRAN

640. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state the present progress in giving effect to the agreement signed with Iran in August 1968, for the export of rails for the Iranian State Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Trial rolling of the rail section required by the Iranian State Railway has been taken up in the Bhilai Steel Plant. All other arrangements for executing the order according to schedule have been made. The first shipment is expected to be made in April-May 1969.

TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS FOR STEEL PLANTS IN IRAN

641. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Steel Limited is likely to train 500 technicians for the Government owned Steel Plant in Iran;

(b) if so, whether an agreement has been signed with the Government of Iran in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K.C. PANT) :

(a) to (c) Hindustan Steel Limited have, subject to confirmation by the Governments of India and Iran, entered into an agreement with the National Iranian Steel Corporation, Teheran, for the training of about 509 Iranian personnel in its Plants. The agreement has been approved by the Government of India.

According to the agreement, training will be imparted for periods varying from 3 to 15 months for different groups of trainees and will be spread over till about the end of 1971. The National Iranian Steel Corporation will pay to HSL the necessary training costs and reimburse other expenses connected therewith in U.S. Dollars.