

and I can only say that it was never intended nor do we expect to provide everything we would require for the steel plant from this.

*94 [The questioner (Shri V. M. Chordia) was absent. For answer, vide col. 666—69 infra.]

*95. [Postponed to the 17th September, 1964.]

BLACK-MARKET IN BICYCLE TYRES AND TUBES

*96. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to his notice that bicycle tyres and tubes are being sold extensively in the black market in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to stop this black market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): (a) There is no statutory control over prices of bicycle tyres and tubes. However, it has come to the notice of the Government that due to consumer preference for certain brands, the prices charged in the market were higher than the retail list prices recommended by the manufacturers.

(b) The tyre companies have been asked to ensure that their dealers do not charge prices higher than those recommended by them. The companies have started advertisement campaign advising public not to pay more than their recommended retail prices and issued warnings to dealers that their dealership would be cancelled if they indulge in malpractices.

श्री जगत नारायण : क्या वजीर साहब बतलायेंगे कि ब्लैक में टायर और ट्यूब किस कीमत पर बिक रहे हैं और उनकी असल कीमत क्या है ?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: I do not know. They are being advertised, as a matter of fact. What is the black-

market price, we cannot say. When there was a complaint, what the Government did in August was that we had a conference of the cycle manufacturers in this country and they were asked not only to notify in the papers their retail prices but also to intimate the State Governments concerned and also to advise their dealers that their dealership licence will be cancelled if they sold at a price beyond that fixed and it is very difficult to know at which place exactly what tyres are sold at what price.

श्री जगत नारायण : गवर्नमेंट के पास इतनी बड़ी मशीनरी है, सी० आई० डी० है, तो यह जानना कौन सा मुश्किल काम है कि असल कीमत क्या है और ब्लैक की कीमत क्या है ? अगर गवर्नमेंट यह तसलीम करती है कि ब्लैक में टायर व ट्यूब बिक रहे हैं तो क्या गवर्नमेंट बतलायेगी कि उसने कितने केसेज इस तरह से ट्रेस किये हैं और कितनों को सजा दी है ?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: I have already answered this. Different dealers might have different prices at different places. When the complaints were received, we had taken action and now we do not receive complaints because the prices are advertised and the State Governments have been informed.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Arising out of the answer of the Deputy Minister that different prices are ruling in different places, I would say that it is not a fact, because the prices are fixed by the companies. The Government should now be alert and ask the Police Officers to see that at these fixed prices the dealers do sell and if they do not, then they should be prosecuted. The public cannot wait till their dealership is cancelled nor the consumers can wait.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: That is a suggestion for action.

SHRI A. D. MANI: In view of this fact having been raised in a pointed fashion would the Government conduct a fresh enquiry into this matter and lay a statement on the Table of the House about the steps taken by the State Governments to control the prices of bicycle tyres and tubes?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: There is no statutory control over the prices and when we got this information of blackmarketing, a meeting of the manufacturers was called and the State Governments have been informed. In the future when such occasion arises we will certainly have consultations with the State Government and tighten up the steps.

श्री जगत नारायण : जिस तरह से सीमेंट के एक या दो बोरे के लिए परमिट दिये जाते हैं क्या उसी तरह की तजवीज साइकिलों के टायर और ट्यूबों के लिए नहीं की जा सकती है ?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: There is no question of any permit because there is no question of any control.

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: May I know whether it is a fact that the Dealers Association are charging Rs. 3 as profit per tyre and the prices fixed by the dealers are carrying a profit of nearly Rs 3 on Rs. 7.50? The Minister may kindly look into this and find out whether it is a legitimate profit that should be allowed to the dealers?

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I make it once again clear that if there is any dealer who is going to sell at a higher price than what the manufacturers have set for them, his dealership goes. That is certain, I would be very thankful to him or any other hon. Member to let us know who is the dealer who is trying to sell at a higher price than what the manufacturers have fixed.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: The hon. Minister said that there is no statutory price control. In the absence of a statutory control, may I know on what basis it can be judged whether there is blackmarketing or not and what penal action is possible in the absence of any price control?

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: This is a simple arrangement between three parties—the Government on the one side, the manufacturer on the other and the dealers on the third. If the dealers are not going to honour the agreement, then it is certainly open to the manufacturers to cancel their dealership. There is no need of controlling that. If I find that a dealer whom I have employed as my agent, is going to misbehave, I terminate the agency.

SHRI R. P. JAIN: Will the hon. Minister kindly mention how many dealerships have been cancelled in this connection up till now?

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: That is more than I can say now.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Does the hon. Minister realise that if an ordinary person wants to purchase a tyre and then ask for a cash receipt, the dealer is certainly not going to oblige him with a receipt for the price he charged for the tyre because of the fear that if he did so, his dealership would be cancelled? So what is the provision the Government is going to make to help the public in this regard?

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Only I want to be shown the person who is denying a receipt for the money he received by selling the tyre.

SHRI BIREN ROY: In the process the person wanting to buy will not get the tyre.

*97. The questioner (Shri Y. A. Reddy) was absent For answer vide col. 669 infra.