

Heavy Duty and other truck tyres and standard sizes of motor-car tyres manufactured in India by Messrs. Dunlop Tyre Company and Good Year Tyre Company?

(b) How do these prices compare with the current prices of these articles in the U.K.?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 26.]

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is there any share for Indian capital on these firms, and if so, what is that share?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I understand the Dunlop Rubber Company has a certain amount of Indian capital—but I would not hazard an opinion as to the exact percentage.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What would be the difference in the price of raw rubber in India, as compared with the purchase of rubber in the United Kingdom by these firms?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know whether these firms purchase raw rubber in the U.K. for the purpose of manufacture in India.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Considering the cheapness of labour and raw material in India and the manufacture of tyres in India, have Government taken any steps to find out why these articles are costly here?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government have taken adequate steps. My hon. friend would have noticed in the papers that Government have committed to the Tariff Commission an enquiry into the prices of tyres both automobile and cycle tyres, manufactured by these tyre companies. Hon. members of the House would also perhaps, know that the terms of reference are very wide. It entitles the Tariff Commission to go deeply into the matter. I have no doubt that when the Tariff Commission's report is received, it will be satisfactory to all concerned.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Do the Government now have any machinery to find out what profits these foreign firms are making here?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, Sir, we have the machinery. The machinery is the Tariff Commission. We have committed this task to the Tariff Commission. When it reports we will know what the position is.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the prices of manufactured rubber goods of these companies are controlled by Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, in the past there has been no control. But the matter was being referred to Government now and again. In those instances where higher prices were allowed to be charged, Government were aware of it and have permitted it. But now at the present moment what is being done is to commit the whole matter to the Tariff Commission. We shall await the results of the enquiry of the Tariff Commission.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Would the Minister be pleased to state the dividend declared by these firms last year?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is going into details.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know the reasons for the increment of the prices made last year?

Mr. Speaker: I think that question was also dealt with last session—I do not remember the answer. Hon. members need not repeat the questions which have once been put.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: By what time is the report of the Tariff Commission expected?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It was only a week or so back that this matter was referred to the Tariff Commission. The Tariff Commission has to decide its personnel—as to how many of its members are going to be committed to this enquiry, or whether they need any additional help. They have to allocate the staff. It all takes a lot of time. I am also as impatient as hon. members, but we cannot help it against these factors.

INDIANS IN MAURITIUS

*127. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of Indians residing in Mauritius;

(b) the percentage of Indians in the total population of the Island; and

(c) the strength of Indians in the legislature in Mauritius?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) 3,20,000.

(b) 64 per cent.

(c) 13 Indian members (11 elected and 2 nominated) in a house of 35.

Of the 35 members 4 are officials nominated, 12 are nominated non-officials, and 19 are elected.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the poorer classes of Indians in Mauritius is subject to a residential tax on every head?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have no information here, but if the hon. member would like me to do so, I shall certainly make enquiries.

Shri P. T. Chacko: Are we having a representative there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have our Commissioner there.

Shri Bhoovaraghasamy: Is there any number of seats allotted to Indians in Mauritius?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have given the number—Eleven are elected and two are nominated.

Shri A. K. Basu: What he means is whether there is any reservation of seats for Indians?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is going into too many details. We are more concerned with affairs at home.

**CONTRACT FOR SALE OF BY-PRODUCT
CHALK FROM SINDRI FACTORY**

*128. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Sindri Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd. have concluded a contract with a cement company for the sale of by-product chalk?

(b) If so, which is that cement company, is it foreign or Indian, what are its authorised and paid-up capitals, who are its directors and how long has it been working in the field?

(c) Is it also a fact that the said cement company is to shortly set up a plant in Sindri for cement manufacture?

(d) When will this factory be set up, what will be its cost, from where are the machineries being imported, what will be its estimated output and what help are Government affording for the setting up of this Factory?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) The name of the company is Messrs Associated Cement Companies Ltd., Bombay, which is an Indian company incorporated in the year 1936. A statement showing the authorised and paid up capital and the names of the Directors of Messrs Associated Cement Companies Ltd. so far as available to the Government

of India is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 27].

(c) Yes.

(d) It is expected that the Plant for 50 per cent. production of the total contemplated output would be installed within about two and half years from now. The estimated output is initially 300 tons of cement a day which will be doubled soon after. Government have no information as to the cost of the plant or the countries from which the required machinery will be imported by Messrs Associated Cement Companies.

No direct help from Government is being given to the proposed cement factory but Messrs Sindri Fertilisers & Chemicals Ltd. will provide necessary facilities by way of land, water and electricity on suitable terms.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: What is the price at which this by-product is sold to the Associated Cement Companies?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Calcium carbonate is to be sold to the Associated Cements at Rs. 9 per ton.

Shri T. K. Chandhuri: How does it compare with the price of calcium carbonate sold in the open market?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot give the figures straightway, because I do not know at what price calcium carbonate is available to other companies. But what I can say is this: Government took care to find out the prices prevailing and after considering all the aspects concluded this agreement.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Will the hon. Minister tell the House why about half a dozen by-product industries which can start from the Sindri Fertiliser Factory are being planned to be given over to private sector by the advisers of the Sindri Factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It raises a different question altogether. The hon. member is raising by way of supplementaries the question of utilisation of all the other by-products—I submit it does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: It is a very wide question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Was this contract for sale of chalk a negotiated contract or one advertised for tenders?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It was a negotiated contract.