

**Opening of New Offices under DGOF
at Important Places**

1060. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open new offices under the Directorate General of Ordnance Factories, Calcutta at some important places to monitor the work of ordnance factories for achieving greater efficiency and better control and coordinate with the Headquarter at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details of such offices being opened/already opened ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). The Headquarters of Director General of Ordnance Factories, who is also Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board, is at Calcutta. An officer of the rank of Additional DGOF has been functioning in Kanpur since 1969 for looking after the Ordnance Equipment group of factories. An officer of similar status has been functioning since 1984 at Avadi to look after mainly the new projects at Avadi and Medak (near Hyderabad). Both these officers function under the overall supervision and control of DGOF at Calcutta. At present, no further offices are being opened.

**Establishment of Sorting Offices and
Postal Stores in West Bengal**

1061. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sorting offices and postal stores to be established in West Bengal during the current year and the names of those places; and

(b) the names of those places where such offices and stores are proposed to be established during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Opening of two Sorting Offices in West Bengal, one at New Jalpaiguri and the other at Howrah, during the current year has been approved. Opening of a Postal Stores Depot is not under consideration at present.

(b) Opening of Sorting Offices and Postal Stores Depots is not a Plan activity under the Seventh Five Years Plan.

Regulation of Price of Tyres

1062. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether, while the Indian tyre industry is facing the problem of over-capacity and the consequent idling of installed capacity the tyre manufacturers have failed to roll back the unilateral price increases made in the recent months;

(b) the price increase effected in 1985 before and after the Union Budget was presented; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to tame the industry including imposing price and distribution control on tyres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Price increase resorted to by the industry varies from unit to unit as well as from variety to variety for each unit. However, on an average, price increase during this period has been of the order of about 9 per cent.

(c) In the prevailing competitive market conditions in which installed capacity and production are in excess of demand at present, and also since there is no control on price or distribution of raw materials and other inputs, *prima facie*, it would not be appropriate to control prices/distribution of tyres. However, Government has been frequently interacting with both tyre industry and raw material manufacturers with a view to bringing about reduction in prices of tyres.

[Translation]

**Opening of Post Offices in Nalanda
District (Bihar)**

1063. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :