

Licensing Policy. It has *inter alia* been pointed out that industrial licensing was not generally a constraint in achievement of plan targets. It has also been mentioned that as against the first Three Plan periods licensing has been progressively more liberal and in a large number of industries the licensed capacity was adequate to fulfil the plan targets.

However, the industrial licensing policy and procedure are constantly reviewed with a view to liberalising and streamlining them further to achieve the production targets laid down for the Seventh Plan period. A number of steps such as delicensing of certain industries, broad banding, re-endorsement of industrial capacity, endorsement of capacity arising out of modernisation, renovation, replacement etc. have been taken with this end in view.

Hike in tyre prices and recommendations of Satyapal Committee

649 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the tyre manufacturers in the country have recently raised the tyre prices from 5 to 7.5 per cent;

(b) if so, the reason for this price hike on tyres;

(c) whether Central Government has received the recommendations of the Satyapal Committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the finding of the committee and steps taken for its effective implementation in a time-bound manner ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) and (b). The Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association have informed Govt. that they had to increase the prices of tyres and tubes by 5% and 6 to 7% respectively in May, 1986, on account of rise in cost of inputs as well as other factors which influence the cost of the end product such as

salary, wages, freight, administrative expenses etc.

(c) and (d). The Satyapal Committee was appointed to recommend measures for rationalisation of product specification, standardisation of raw materials with a view to achieving cost optimisation, rationalisation and improvement of distribution system of automotive tyres and technological improvements. The Government have received the report of the Satyapal Committee which deals with these issues and also covers important questions—such as modernisation, extension of the certification of marks scheme of the ISI to the tyre industry, development of healthy trade practices and the establishment of a National Research Institute for carrying out both basic and adaptive research. The report has been discussed initially with the concerned Departments and Ministries and was also placed before the Development Council for Tyre Industry for consideration. As various policy issues have been raised in the Report it is not possible to indicate any definite time frame for its implementation.

Corporation to boost non-conventional energy sources

650. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a corporation to finance and promote the development of non-conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its organisational set up, functions and activities;

(c) the initial capital allotted for the project and the mode of its disposal utility;

(d) the time by which said corporation is likely to start functioning and provide grants for research and loans for the commercial exploitation of non-conventional energy sources; and

(e) the terms and conditions for providing loans and grants to private organisations/institutions in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e). With a view to promoting projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy on a wider scale, it is proposed to set up a Renewable Energy Development Agency. A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been made for this project during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The details and modalities of the Agency are under examination of the Government.

Increase in price of alcohol

651. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity of alcohol imported annually;
- (b) what is its landed cost and its distribution cost;
- (c) the cost of indigenous alcohol ;
- (d) whether there is a demand to increase its prices;

(e) if so, the number of times the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has recommended increase in alcohol prices; and

(f) the reaction of Government in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The duty free import of alcohol (denatured) has been permitted from February, 1985 onward to actual users (industrial) who arrange its imports. The import of about 90 thousand kilo litres has so far been authorised. According to import applications, given by the actual users (industrial), the C.I.F. prices of imported alcohol range between \$ 240 to \$ 265 per kilo litre in bulk and \$410 to \$550 per kilo litre in drums. The information of quantities actually imported and actual imported price is not readily available.

As per Ethyl Alcohol (Price Control) Order, 1971, the indigenous base price of alcohol is as follows :—

Base Price

(i) Absolute alcohol conforming to ISI Standard No. 321-1952, naked, for equivalent volume at 100 per cent v/v strength.	Rupees nine hundred sixty and paise seventy per kilo litre.
(ii) Rectified Spirit conforming to ISI Standard No. 323-1959 naked, for equivalent volume at 100 per cent v/v strength.	Rupees eight hundred seventy three and paise thirty seven per kilo litre.
(iii) Rectified Spirit conforming to ISI Standard No. 323-1959, naked, for equivalent volume at 94.68 per cent v/v strength.	Rupees eight hundred twenty six and paise ninety per kilo litre.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices submitted a report in August, 1983, recommending increase in the price of alcohol.

(f) The question of increase in the price of alcohol is linked with formulation of new policy of molasses and alcohol which has not yet been finalised.