

[*Translation*]

**Prices of Articles manufactured by
K.V.I.C.**

444. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in the average prices of the articles manufactured by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission during 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) the extent of increase in the total production during this period;

(c) the reason of non increase in the production of K.V.I.C. articles during the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production and provide employment to the maximum number of people in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Telephone Services in Sibsagar (Assam)

445. PROF. PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether repeated complaints were received by his Ministry about deplorable functioning of telephone services in Sibsagar district (Assam) in general and the District Headquarters town and important oil-town Sibsagar in particular;

(b) if so, whether remedial and improvement measures like replacement of outdated, old and faulty machineries, realignment of telephone lines, introduction of electronic dialling introduction of STD facilities etc. are planned to be undertaken; and

(c) the time-bound programme for implementation of the above measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir, we have received complaint from Hon'ble Member of Parliament himself.

(b) and (c). Remedial measures to improve the working of the exchanges in Sibsagar district and Sibsagar town has already been undertaken. The equipment of Sibsagar exchange and other exchanges of the district namely Sonari and Nazira are being overhauled by Special maintenance teams, faults are removed and faulty parts are replaced. Outdoor plant of the Sibsagar exchange and other exchanges are being upgraded. Under Mission-Better Communications, various plans have been drawn up for improving the working of telephone systems. There is a proposal to expand Sibsagar exchange by 100 lines during 1987-88, and introduction of National Subscriber dialling to this exchange: will also be provided during the year 1987-88.

At present the call success rate of Sibsagar exchange is 99%

Due to financial constraints and resources, it may not be possible at present to provide electronic exchange. Whenever the exchange justifies for conversation to a bigger one Department will consider the case for installation of an electronic exchange.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Tyre Prices

446. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state: