

[*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(b) if so, whether remedial and improvement measures like replacement of outdated, old and faulty machineries, realignment of telephone lines, introduction of electronic dialling introduction of STD facilities etc.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:

(a) whether the prices of tyres are increasing constantly in the country;

(b) if so, the dates on which and the extent to which prices thereof have increased during the last three years;

(c) whether the consumption of nylon tyres is about 2400 tonnes every month and its demand can be met by utilising indigenous tyre production capacity and by importing them; and

(d) if so, the reason for continuous increase in prices thereof and the effective steps taken by Government to stabilise the prices of tyres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

#### STATEMENT

(a) to (d). According to the information supplied by the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association, tyre prices have been increased during the last 3 years by 9.5% in March-April, 1985, by 5% in May 1986 and 7% in July, 1987. According to the Association, the price increase have been effected because of increase in cost of production.

The installed capacity of automotive tyre and tubes in the country in 1986 was 175.54 lakhs. The production of tyres in 1986 was 135 lakhs. The total requirement of tyres by 1989-90 is estimated at 23.293 million for which an installed capacity of about 27 million would be required on the basis of 85% of capacity utilisation. As against this, the total capacity installed and approved is of the order of 31 million nos. However, there are complaints regarding formation of a cartel and adoption of restrictive trade practices on the part of the tyre manufacturers as a result of which market forces are not permitted to have free play. The complaints are being investigated by the M.R.T.P. Commission.

Government are of the view that encouragement of fresh capacity could increase

competition within the domestic market and check the alleged malpractices on the part of the tyre manufacturers. The Government may consider other steps, including import of tyres, if the need arises.

#### Shortfall in Power Production

447. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortfall in power production as against target fixed therefor and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether about 20 per cent of the electricity produced is wasted due to the defective system of its distribution, transmission and maintenance and if so, whether Government propose to take any effective measures so as to minimise the loss of electricity during its transmission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) During the period April to June, 1987, the actual total generation was about 0.5% less than the target.

(b) The overall transmission and distribution losses in the country are of the order of 22%. The losses comprise of technical losses and commercial losses/theft. For reducing these losses, the Central Electricity Authority have issued guidelines to all the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments, suggesting technical and non-technical measures. In order to check theft of energy, the Indian Electricity Act has been amended to make theft of energy a cognizable offence.

[English]

#### Assistance by Soviet Union for oil pipeline to Kamal Refinery

448. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA:  
NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND