

flared;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has been developed by the scientists of the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, Assam;

(c) whether the quality of Carbon Black produced indigenously almost matches international standards and it has been found suitable by the USSR industries;

(d) whether about 60 to 70 metric tonnes of Carbon Black is being imported from the USA and West Germany at a cost of Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 per kg. at present; and

(e) if so, whether Government would propose to earn foreign exchange through export of indigenous carbon black in future?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): (a) There is no unit in the country at present producing channel black grade of carbon black on a commercial scale. We are only producing furnace grade of carbon black, but not by this method.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Only furnace grade of carbon black is produced in the country and it is comparable with international standards.

(d) Import of channel & lamp grades of carbon black are under Open General licence (OGL) of the import-export policy for actual users and as such imports of various quantities do take place from time to time at different costs. Some quantities of furnace grade carbon black are also imported against export of tyres.

(e) Yes, Sir. Exports are always given requisite encouragement, but there are no prospects of exports of any grade of carbon black in the near future.

### Price of Truck Tyres

3076. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has examined the prices of truck tyres produced in the country;

(b) if so, the findings of BICP; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to bring down the level of prices of truck tyres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BICP had suggested a fair normative price for tyres on the basis of cost of inputs prevailing in May 1986. As the cost of a number of major inputs required for the manufacture of tyres had gone up considerably subsequent to the submission of the report, the Government has requested BICP to update its recommendation.

(c) There is no statutory control on prices and distribution of tyres at present. However, Government are in regular touch with the manufacturers in order to ensure adequate availability of tyres in the market through optimum utilisation of installed capacity.

### Sickness in Small Scale Industries in Vidarbha Region

3077. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware that thousands of small scale indus-