

Andaman Nicobar Islands. Willow Cleft used in Cricket bat manufacture is supplied from Jammu and Kashmir State. In order to improve the availability of Willow wood which is in short supply to the industry, alternate sources have already been located in Sikkim and Bhutan and samples are being tested for their suitability in cricket bat manufacture. Mulbery and Ash wood used in hockey sticks and various types of rackets are also in short supply and the Ministry of Agriculture is already taking effective steps for increasing the area of their plantation and effective utilisation of available resources. The Forest Research Institute, Dehradun is also carrying out research for alternate sources of various types of wood used in sports goods industry and for their commercial utilisation in sports goods industry. Mulbery wood available in Assam is also being sampled for use in sports goods industry.

#### Shortfall in the Supply of Vehicles

7592. SHRI S. S. LAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that due to the persistent shortfall in the supply of commercial vehicles, the waiting time for buyers has increased during the last two years; and

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that these vehicles and even their tyres are being sold in the market at very high premiums; and

(c) if so, what are his plans to improve the situation and stop exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) There is no fall in the production of commercial vehicles. In fact, production of commercial vehicles has gone up to 58,255 Nos. in 1978-79, as compared to

41,244 Nos. in 1977-78. There has, however, been an increase in demand for commercial vehicles and there is a waiting period particularly for preferred makes of TELCO and ASHOK LEYLAND chassis. It is expected that in 1979-80, because of various measures in progress, there will be further progress in the supply of commercial vehicles.

(b) and (c): In order to reduce scope for malpractices relating to charging of premium etc., steps have been taken to augment production. Further, Government have issued an Order, dated 21-3-1979, restricting the re-sale of new commercial vehicles for a period of 2 years from the date of its purchase.

#### Setting up of H.M.T. Unit in Himachal Pradesh

7594. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Central Governments consideration to set up bigger unit of H.M.T. in Himachal Pradesh on Pinjor pattern;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when it will be set up; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor and what is the criterion for setting up such unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(b) HMT's Factory at Pinjore is for manufacture of tractors and machine tools. On consideration of the present manufacturing capacities for the products and their anticipated demand, no large investments are called for in HMT setting up another Pinjore type unit.