

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:*

(vi) NATIONALISATION OF NATIONAL RUBBER MANUFACTURERS LTD. AND INCHECK TYRES LTD.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Sir, the National Rubber Manufacturers Ltd. and Incheck Tyres Ltd. was taken over by Government of India in 1977-78. Nationalisation of these undertakings is under the active consideration of the Government of India and the workers of these two units in West Bengal are eagerly waiting for announcement of this decision. The Rubber & Tyre Industry in India is now dominated by the monopoly houses and multi-national companies and naturally they will take a very different view.

Apart from the needs of the Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings, the needs of the Defence Departments for tyre and rubber products is very vital for national interest and it is desirable that we should be completely self-reliant to meet these needs. The nationalisation of NRM Ltd. and Incheck Tyres Ltd. will be the desired step to attain the objectives. These two companies together can give an annual products of Rs. 100 crores approx., if raw materials are supplied regularly and in adequate quantities. I am informed by the representatives of the workers and they further informed me that they have assured the Government full cooperation to utilise full production capacities of these two units and make them most successful public undertakings. In the circumstances, I request the Minister concerned to give a statement in this regard.

(vii) ARTIFICIAL SCARCITY OF CEMENT IN KARNATAKA, PARTICULARLY IN BANGALORE.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Bangalore South): After the new policy of the distribution of cement announced (though the consumer was to pay

higher price for cement), it was expected that cement in the open market will be available freely and he will be not made to pay higher price than the rate fixed viz Rs. 65 to Rs. 67 per bag of 50 Kg.

In Bangalore, cement was freely available and in some cases, the user was getting cement at Rs. 63 or Rs. 64.

During the last 25 days in Karnataka particularly in Bangalore city, the cement has only disappeared in the market and one will have to pay Rs. 80 or Rs. 85 per bag. This is a rude shock to consumers. There is a forced holiday for those building houses and the building activities have stopped. This is not only a big hit to cement users who take construction of houses but also petty industries using cement for asbestos cement sheets, cement pipes etc., Some cement consumers allege that there is an understanding between cement producers and cement dealers to bring about an artificial scarcity for cement to make larger profit by raising selling cost of cement.

I learn that the cement controller of New Delhi has ordered that cement factories have to give all levy cement by 31st October, 1982, as such, the factories are unable to supply to open market. And this has raised the cost of cement in market and also the scarcity. In any case, the sufferer is the poor consumer.

I have received letter and telegrams urging me to ask the Central Government to arrange for the supply of cement to market. I appeal to Government to take immediate steps to remove the artificial scarcity and also to see the cost of cement is not abnormal in these hard days.

I had been to Bangalore 3 days back and many citizens told me that the black market now is Rs. 100 per bag, and urgent relief needed.

*Not recorded.