

mission lines. In view of this, will the hon. Minister consider this question of providing power to the industries in the backward areas where super Thermal Power Stations exist at a little cheaper rate than the rate at which power is being supplied to industrialists by charging them some extra amount so that power could be properly utilised in tribal areas like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh by giving incentives to the people and these areas could be developed industrially. Will he consider this important question and ensure that power capacity is not wasted and industries get power.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member's suggestion is not related to this question.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: It is certainly related to it. I want that power being generated must be utilised properly.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): It is true that once power is generated, it must be utilised, otherwise it will go waste. We are experiencing this problem in Uttar Pradesh where the power being generated in Singrauli could not reach a number of places but it is for the State Electricity Board to construct transmission lines for this purpose. We are prepared to provide assistance to them in this work. The Central Government neither can provide line to any industry directly nor can it supply electricity. We are making every effort to see that more and more power reaches people and more and more power is utilised through the State Electricity Boards and State Governments. We will take into account the suggestion of the hon. Member in future.

[English]

Prices of Plastic Raw Material

*75. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of raw material used in plastic units have increased considerably forcing the units to close down;

(b) if so, the number of such units, State-wise;

(c) the extent to which the prices of raw material have increased; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to provide protection to these units, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The prices of plastic raw materials to the processing units, numbering around 15,000 and mostly in tiny and small scale sectors, have considerably increased primarily due to increase in international prices of these products by almost 100% since the beginning of 1987 (around 50% of the requirement of plastic raw materials is met through imports). This coupled with certain other constraints has reportedly resulted in closure of some processing units; precise data regarding such closures is however, not available.

The import levies on plastic raw materials have been reduced thrice since March 1987.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked as to how many units have been closed and what is their state-wise break-up. The hon. Minister has given an evasive reply to it. He has neither given the number nor the State-wise break-up about the units closed. It is a clear question. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has got the required figures in respect of Andhra Pradesh, if not in respect of other States? He is very particular about Andhra Pradesh. Hence, he should, at least, give the reply in respect of Andhra Pradesh.

Secondly, how many workers have been affected and how many workers were rendered jobless as a result of closure of small plastic industries due to non-availability of raw material. What measures Govern-

ment propose to take to provide raw-material to them and what the Government is doing to revive then units. Besides what are the schemes proposed or under consideration of the Government to provide raw-material to these small units at subsidised rates and to ensure that these units run smoothly and produce more.

[*English*]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: In my state-

ment laid on the Table of the House, I mentioned the total units as 15,000. State-wise number is not available. If the hon. Member wants, I would certainly send the particulars especially for Andhra Pradesh.

In this regard, I want to inform the hon. Member that our production is low and our demand is very high. In the international market also, the prices have gone up. I place some figures before the House.

(*Figures in thousands*)

| <i>Tonnes</i> | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | <i>Year</i> | <i>Demand</i> | <i>Production</i> | <i>Gap.</i> |
| LDPE | 1988-89 | 173 | 80 | 93 |
| HDPE | | 138 | 40 | 98 |
| PVC | | 242 | 125 | 117 |
| PS | | 38 | 22 | 16 lakhs |

The demand in the country is very low. In the international market, previously the price was low. Now the prices have gone up. We permitted the customers the import on OGL and we are importing through IPCL Baroda and we are trying to give it to the small and tiny manufacturers as far as possible. Three days back, I visited Baroda. I told the Baroda unit people to go abroad and import as much material as possible to supply the units. I entirely agree with the hon. Members that so many units were closed for want of raw-materials because the price has gone up. The indigenous price is low and the international price is very high. This is the actual position.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Is it a fact that the rate of customs and excise duties imposed by the Government vary? The rates are not uniform? Due to this also, the prices of raw-material have gone up. Is it a fact? If so, what

the Government is thinking about it and whether the Government is going to set it right. I had asked the hon. Minister to furnish figures. At least he should give the figures in respect of Andhra Pradesh and he may give the figures in respect of other States later on, we shall get them. But I request him to give the figures in respect of Andhra Pradesh that how many units have been closed there so that we may know the interest he is taking in respect of Andhra Pradesh.

[*English*]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, how can I, off-hand, tell the figures for Andhra Pradesh? I am really interested in Andhra Pradesh. I will certainly communicate the figures to the hon. Member.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Sir, the hon. Minister has given figures regarding the various products, international prices and also the gap between the demand and sup-

ply within the country. This is known to us. This is not a revelation made just now. This is known to us for the last four years that there is going to be an acute shortage of this raw-material which is required by thousands of small-scale factories in the country. What is the Government planning to see that there is a supply of raw-material to these units? May I know whether the Government is still going to play politics with the major plants like the Haldia Petro-Chemical plant and Vishakhapatnam Petro-Chemical plant which are going to remove the shortage. The only factory which is today supplying this internally is the IPCL and the production of IPCL is so low that it cannot meet even 25 per cent of the requirement of the industry. This being the case, when the hon. Minister says that there is a world shortage of raw-material—he had been going round the world finding out the sources for the supply of raw-materials, I would like to know as to what the Government is planning to see that this shortage is removed and internally there is increased production of this material.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Several times, I answered this question, in the last Session also. We are setting up some Petro-Chemical Complexes. In the Year 1990, the Maharashtra Petro-Chemical Complex will come into production. There are four or five Petro-Chemical Complexes to be started like the Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex, the Vishakhapatnam Petro-Chemical Complex, the Hazira Petro-Chemical Complex etc. Therefore, there are five or six projects to be started. Now we have entered into the Plastic age. There is a dearth of raw-material. So, you must go to start more Petro-Chemical Complexes. But, all these are down-stream industries. Then only, we can meet this demand. It will take at least three years to meet this demand indigenously. Within these three years, we must import this raw-material from other countries.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The production of Plastics and Chemicals of Union Carbide Company Ltd. at Chembur has been stopped since one year. There is a gap between demand and supply of plastics and

all other Petro-Chemical materials. As there was a demand in this House that this unit which is a profit-making unit should be taken-over by the Government, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to take-over this profit-making unit of Union Carbide Company Ltd. at Chembur.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: The overall capacity of the Chembur unit is only 15000 tonnes. This is a profit making unit. But, you know that in the Bhopal Gas case, the litigation is going on between the Government of India and the Union Carbide Corporation. It is their property. That is why Government is not going to take over that unit. If they sell it to any private party, they must deposit the amount in the court. There is a lot of procedure in it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You can take over it without giving any compensation to the company.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Now there is no question of take-over.

Hike in Tyre Prices

*76. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTAT
SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tyre manufacturers have recently raised the prices of tyres; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action Government propose to take to bring down the prices of tyres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). According to Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association, prices of various categories of tyres have been increased by the tyre companies ranging from 2% to 6% in Octo-