

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to reduce this; if so, when and to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) While no specific recommendation has been made by the Study Group for the reduction of licence fees of porters, they wanted the cost of supervision to be kept out of the licence fee which, if acted upon, might result in a reduction of the licence fee. This recommendation was not accepted by the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Rise in the price of Tyres

* 497. SHRI FATEHSINGHRAO GAEKWAD :

DR. KARNI SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of rayon tyre-yarn, cord and fabrics had been reduced by the Government on the express condition that the tyre manufacturers would sell tyres at lower rates;

(b) if so, whether some of the leading tyre manufacturing companies have raised the prices of bicycle tyres by about 15 per cent after the above reduction in price by the Government; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take against the defaulting companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) By a Resolution of the Ministry of Foreign Trade dated the 27th February, 1971, Government have accepted the recommendations of the Tariff Commission for a reduction in the prices

of rayon tyre cord materials. The benefit of this reduction, when it has been effected, is to be passed on to the ultimate consumer by the automobile tyre manufacturers.

(b) and (c). The increase in the price of bicycle tyres is not related to the price of rayon cord material, as this is not used at all in the manufacture of bicycle tyres.

Broad Gauge Line for Jodhpur-Delhi Section (Northern Railways)

*498. RAJMATA KRISHNA KUMARI Jodhpur : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the increased traffic load on the Jodhpur-Delhi section of the Northern Railway;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to convert the existing metre gauge line into broad gauge and if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Though there has been some increase in the train services during the last few years, the existing capacity on the Delhi-Jodhpur metre gauge section is adequate to cater to the requirements of present traffic, as well as any likely increases in the near future. This section has therefore not been included in the perspective Plan of gauge conversions on the Indian Railways to be implemented in the next ten to fifteen years or so.