

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA: That is a suggestion he has made. I will consider it.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI: Just now the hon. Minister said that the Barrage will be opened on 1st January, 1972. May I know whether the Assam Mail will be diverted from the Barrage to New Bongaigaon ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA: That also I cannot answer now. I want notice for that.

Demand for increase in Prices of tyres

*1243. **SHRI K. C. PANDEY:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether tyre manufacturers have approached Government for further increase in the prices of tyres;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a demand; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The tyre manufacturers have recently asked for increase in the prices of tyres owing to increased manufacturing costs of labour.

(c) The tyre Industry has been asked to furnish data giving an analysis of the cost increase on various counts will full justification therefor.

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे : आज के वैज्ञानिक युग में टायर का जो महत्व है यातायात के लिये उसको देखते हुए और आज जो कमी टायरों की देश में है उसको पूरा करने के लिये उनके बढ़ते हुए मूल्य को रोकने के लिये क्या सरकार टायर उद्योग पर नियन्त्रण लगायेगी और उसका राष्ट्रीयकरण करने का विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: So far as the question of any control on tyres is concerned, the State Government is at liberty to do so. They have got the powers.

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे : आज टायरों की

बढ़ती हुई कीमत को देखते हुए क्या उनका मूल्य निर्धारण किया जायेगा और टायर उद्योग की जो विदेशी कम्पनियाँ हैं क्या उनका नियन्त्रण करने का सरकार विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We are not at the moment thinking of taking over these companies. But in order to meet the shortage of tyres, we have allowed expansion of capacities of the existing ones and also by licensing new ones.

श्री रामसुरत प्रसाद : रिक्शा, साइकिल, मोटर, मोटर कार, जीप, ट्रक आदि के टायरों की जो कीमत निर्धारित की गई इससे अधिक कीमत उत्पादक ले रहे हैं। इस पर नियन्त्रण रखने के लिये सरकार क्या प्रबन्ध कर रही है ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: As I said earlier, if any State Government feels that there is black-marketing, they can go in for control orders under the Essential Supplies Act.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that even today there is a discrimination in giving permission for expansion to the foreign tyre manufacturing companies like Goodyear, Firestone and Dunlop, in preference to the Indian tyre manufacturing companies, and, if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to do away with this discrimination and, if not, why not nationalise the foreign tyre companies ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I could not follow. Discrimination by whom ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Discrimination in giving permission for expansion. You have given permission for expanding the capacity of the Dunlop. They done it, they have got the sanction. But what about Indian tyre manufacturing companies.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: As far as expansion is concerned, whoever has asked for, we have given the permission. There is no question of any discrimination in this matter. I can assure the hon. Member that if any Indian com-

pany has made a complaint to him that there has been discrimination with that companies and if he kindly passes on that information to me, I will certainly look into it.

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : क्या स्माल-स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज की ओर से सरकार को कोई रिप्रेजेंटेशन मिला है कि टायरों पर एक्ससाइज ड्यूटी लगने के बाद में खास तौर से साइकल के टायरों के सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ— उनको टायर बनाने वाली बड़ी-बड़ी कम्पनियों के मुकाबले में कठिनाई पड़ रही है और उनका कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन ज्यादा ज्यादा हो जायेगा ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I don't know whether any representation has been received but I will have to make an inquiry whether any representation has been received by the Government. I want notice.

श्री शशि भूषण : सरकार की यह पालिसी है कि वह मोनोपली कनसर्न्ज को एक्सपेंशन की इजाजत नहीं देगी। क्या मन्त्री महोदय को मालूम है कि जो टायरों के मोनोपलिस्ट मैनुफेक्चरर्ज हैं, जिनका जिक्त अमी श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी ने किया है, उनकी बजह से देश में टायरों की कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं, हिन्दुस्तान में जो देसी रबर पैदा होता है, उसके लिए वे पूरा पैसा किसानों को नहीं देते हैं, और उनको विदेशों से रबर इम्पोर्ट करने को लाइसेंस दिया गया है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार विदेशी बड़ी कम्पनियों पर नियंत्रण तुरन्त लगाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है। आईन्दा मोनोपलिस्ट को एक्सपेंशन की इजाजत न देकर देश की छोटी-छोटी इंडस्ट्रियल फम्ज को एक्सपेंशन करने का मौका दिया जाये, इसके सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I will assure the hon. Member that we had given letters of intent to as many as nine new tyre companies. Over and above that, recently, two more companies have been given letters of intent in order

to curb the monopoly of existing companies which have foreign equity capital.

Railway Lines in Nefa Area

*1244. **SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering further extension of railway lines in the NEFA area;

(b) if so, the main features thereof and when such extension is likely to take place;

(c) if not, whether Government are aware that the people of NEFA are suffering from serious difficulties owing to poor communication facilities in that area; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take up survey works in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is a matter of opinion.

(d) No, Sir.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: It appears that NEFA area is not only outlying physically but it is also outlying from the range of the attention of the hon. Minister.

May I know from the hon. Minister that in view of the importance this area has developed in the last few years after Chinese aggression and also coming up in the sphere of political and other developments in the area, what are the difficulties for the Government of India to make a complete and comprehensive survey for laying a railway line and find out the real difficulties so that the development of this area could be taken up speedily with the help of the railways in view of the existence of a number of pilgrim places like Parshuram Kund and a number of other important places in the valley, not in the hill areas?

SHRI HANUMANTHIYA: This area has not been neglected. Between 1961 and 1966 we have constructed 324 km. of railways of strategic importance at the cost of Rs. 8 crores. Even this investment has not given us sufficient return. Therefore, the