

Licensed Capacity of Oil Barrel Fabricators

*726. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 216 on the 28th July, 1970 regarding the licensed capacity of oil barrel fabricators and state:

(a) the reasons for Government to treat capacities of Steel Containers Limited and Industrial Containers Ltd. as assessed one for purpose of raw material allocation when their capacities were not actually assessed before general assessment was undertaken during 1963-64;

(b) whether it does not indicate that these two fabricators were being allocated raw material on their licensed capacities before 1963-64;

(c) if so, the reasons for not allocating raw material to other fabricators on their licensed capacities prior to 1963-64; and

(d) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House detailed charts of capacities assessed by them of all barrel fabricators which resulted in their taking decisions for determination of different efficiency factors of different barrel fabricators?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) to (c). Allocation of raw material to barrel fabricators has always been based on assessed capacity. In the case of M/s. Steel Containers Ltd. and M/s. Industrial Containers Ltd. the position has already been explained in reply to Unstarred Question No. 216 on 28.7.70. These two units were granted industrial licences for capacities which were earlier recognised in favour of Indian Galvanising Co. (1926) Ltd. for the units at Bombay and Calcutta. These capacities held by Indian Galvanising Co. were treated as assessed capacities for the purpose of raw material allocation to the new licensed units in question, till they were revised as a result of general assessment undertaken during 1963-64.

(d) Attention is invited to page 12 of the 85th Report of the Estimates Committee presented to the Lok Sabha on the 30th April, 1969 which gives the assessed capacities based on inspection during 1963-64. The efficiency factor of 75% has been generally applied except in the case of M/s. Hind Galvanising and Engineering Co. Pvt. Limited, Calcutta, where the capacity was arrived at without actual inspection and in the case of M/s. Assam Oil Company (a consumer fabricator) where no assessment was made. Earlier certain exceptions were also made in the cases of M/s. Bharat Barrel and Drum Manufacturing Co., Bombay in September, 1953 in which assessment was done at efficiency of 66.2/3%, the same company at Calcutta in December 1963 got assessed at the same percentage and M/s. Standard Drum and Barrel Mfg. Co. in November-1961 at 63%, for the reasons already explained in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 216 on 28.7.1970.

Shortage of Tyres and Tubes

*727. SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of tyres and tubes in the country;

(b) whether the manufacturers of these goods have asked for permission to increase production;

(c) whether permission has been granted to them; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of new factories proposed to be set up to meet the demand of tyres and tubes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) There is a marginal shortage in respect of certain sizes of tyres and tubes.

(b) and (c). There are no pending applications from existing manufacturers of automobile tyres and tubes for expansion of their capacities. Two of these manufacturers had

applied for permission for setting up of new units which was not agreed to, as they have yet to implement substantial expansion licences earlier issued to them.

(d) A decision has been taken to permit setting up of eight new units for manufacture of automobile tyres and tubes.

Price of Coca-Cola

*730. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :
SHRI S. A. AGADI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the increase in the price of Coca-Cola since 1968 upto October, 1970 ;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the price of Coca-Cola ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The price of a bottle of coca cola during the years 1968-69 was 40 paise per bottle. During 1970 (March-July), it was 45 paise per bottle, and after July, 1970, it is 42 paise per bottle.

(b) and (c). At present Government are not considering imposing any statutory control on soft drinks since it is not included in the list of essential commodities. However, with a view to examine the possibilities of reduction in the prices, various factors including the cost of production, margin of profit, retailers, commission, etc. were gone into with the various soft drink manufacturers and they were persuaded to reduce their price by three paise per bottle.

Permits for long distance haulage to road Transport Companies

*732. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to boosting their

sagging revenues, the Indian Railways have requested the Regional Transport Authorities not to issue permits for long distance haulage to road transport companies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government are aware that road transport has succeeded in capturing a large part of the high-rated goods traffic for long distance haulage on accounts of its ability to offer quick door to door service to the customer ; and

(d) whether Government also propose to formulate a scheme to offer the customer door to door service ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Railways already provide door to door services like "Containerised Service", "Freight Forwarders Services", Street delivery and collection services at selected stations.

Visit by Soviet Minister to Bokaro

*733. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Goldin, the Minister of Steel of Soviet Union, recently visited Bokaro ;

(b) if so, on which dates he visited Bokaro ;

(c) what are his findings about the working of the plant ; and

(d) what kind of further assistance would the Soviet Union extend to the Plant and the assurance given by Mr. Goldin in that respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) to (d). Mr. Goldin, Minister for Construction of Heavy Industries in U. S. S. R., is also the President of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society and his recent visit to