

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) (i) Vehicles are purchased by S.T.C. from diplomats and other privileged persons at c.i.f. value declared at the time of imports irrespective of age and the date of purchase. No deductions are made on these cars on account of depreciation resulting from normal wear and tear.

(ii) Foreign vehicles of the non-privileged persons are purchased by the S.T.C. at a depreciated price; depreciation being calculated at 20 per cent per year on diminishing basis.

(iii) S.T.C. sells their cars to the following categories of users:—

- (1) Tourist Promotion
- (2) Rashtrapati Bhavan
- (3) Raj Bhawan
- (4) Central Government/State Government.
- (5) Public Undertakings.
- (6) Sale to the public through tenders.

(b) The sale through tender is normally held 3 to 4 times a year. No fixed interval is, however, provided for such sales.

(c) Two statements showing particulars of the cars sold to the various priority users and through tenders to the public respectively during 1967 are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—20/68.]

(d) A lot of about 210 cars is expected to be released for sale through tenders by the first week of March, 1968.

Industrial Production

6. **SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high power steering committee has been set up to consider the various bottle-

necks in industrial production and to suggest measures to remedy them; and

(b) members of the said Committee and when the report is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Steering Committee is presided over by Secretary Department of Industrial Development and includes senior representatives from the Departments of Petroleum & Chemicals, Iron & Steel, Mines & Metals, Commerce, Economic Affairs, Labour & Employment, Planning Commission and the DGTD as members.

The work of the Steering Committee consists of examining on a continuing basis the difficulties reported from time to time and in evolving necessary measures to resolve them. The Committee is, therefore, not expected to make any formal report.

Stopping of Circar Express at Undi Railway Station

7. **SHRI D. B. RAJU:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passengers are experiencing great hardship and inconvenience due to the absence of the stoppage of the Circar Express at Undi Railway Station, which is a big business centre on the Bhimavaram-Gudiwada Section on the South Central Railway; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No representation has been received by the Railway Administration about inconvenience to the travelling public at Undi station owing to non-stoppage of 43/44 Circar Express there.

(b) Does not arise.