

resins. The shortage is being particularly felt by new small scale units set up during the last 3 years or so. The Government is considering certain arrangements to ensure the supply of a portion of indigenous production of resins to new small scale units.

**Plastic Manufacturing Companies and Import of Raw Material**

6132. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Companies which are manufacturing plastic in India;

(b) whether the raw material used for manufacturing plastic is imported; and

(c) if so, from which countries and the quantity imported during the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) The major items of plastics manufactured in the country for processing into plastic goods along with the names of the manufacturers are furnished below:—

1. Polyethylene (Low Density):

(a) M/s Alkali Chemical Corporation (India) Ltd., Calcutta.

(b) M/s Union Carbide (India) Ltd. (Factory at Bombay).

2. Polyethylene (High Density)

M/s. Polyolefins Industries Ltd., Bombay.

3. PVC:

(a) M/s Ahmedabad Manufacturing and Calico Printing Co. Ltd., Bombay.

(b) M/s. Chemicals & Plastics India Ltd. (Factory at Mettur).

(c) M/s National Organic Chemical Industries Ltd., Bombay.

(d) M/s Shriram Vinyl & Chemical Industries Ltd., Kota (Rajasthan).

(e) M/s Plastics & Resins & Chemicals Ltd., Arumugene Sahapuram (Tamil Nadu)

4. Polystyrene:

(a) M/s. Polychem Ltd., Bombay.

(b) M/s. Chemicals & Plastics Ltd., Vishakapatnam

5. Cellulose Acetate Moulding Granules:

(a) M/s. East Anglia Plastics India Ltd., Calcutta.

(b) M/s. Mysore Acetates & Chemicals Ltd. (Factory at Mandia) Karnataka.

6. Phenol Formaldehyde Moulding Powder:

(a) M/s. Bakelite Hylam Ltd., Secunderabad.

(b) M/s. Indian Plastics Ltd. Bombay.

(c) TIPCO—The Industrial Plastics Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Bombay.

7. Urea Formaldehyde Moulding Powder:

(a) M/s. Nuchem Plastics Ltd., Faridabad.

(b) M/s. Indian Plastics Ltd., Bombay.

(c) M/s. Praga Industries Ltd., Coimbatore.

(d) M/s. Chempopharma Ltd., Bombay.

(b) The basic raw materials required for manufacture of the above plastics are mostly indigenous. These are the following:—

- (1) Ethyl Alcohol
- (2) Calcium Carbide
- (3) Chlorine/Hydrochloric Acid
- (4) Benzene
- (5) Naphtha
- (6) Phenol
- (7) Urea
- (8) Formaldehyde
- (9) Cellulose Acetate Flakes
- (10) Plasticizers
- (11) Stabilisers and colours
- (12) Catalysts and other process chemicals

Of the above, Cellulose Acetate Flakes, certain Stabilisers, Chemicals and catalysts as also Pigments/Colours are partly imported. It is no doubt possible that when occasional shortages develop, some of these materials are allowed to be imported also, e.g., Alcohol, Phenol, etc.

(c) Imports are effected from various countries e.g., USA, UK, West Germany, Holland, Japan.

Since Chemicals and Catalysts etc vary from one plastic to the other and form a large number though the quantity may be small, it is difficult to indicate these figures separately. The total value of raw materials allowed imports for manufacture of thermoplastics varies between Rs. 40 to 70 lakhs annually and of Cellulosic from Rs. 30 to 110 lakhs mainly for Cellulose Acetate Flakes.

In the case of phenolic and Urea Moulding materials, imports are not of a very high order, the major imports being related to cellulose pulp for U.F. phenol to meet the indige-

nous gap, and a small quantity of formaldehyde when indigenous methanol was not available adequate for formaldehyde production within the country.

#### Conversion of Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge in Gujarat State during Fifth Five Year Plan

6133. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to convert metre gauge line into broad gauge in Gujarat State during the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Conversion of 557 kms long metre gauge section between Viramgam-Okha and Kanalus-Portandar (including Kanalus-Sika and Jamnagar-Bedi branch lines), in Gujarat, sanctioned in December 1971, at an estimated cost of Rs. 42.92 crores, is in progress. This work will be completed by December, 1977

A Survey has also been carried out for conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad line, which falls partly in Gujarat State, to B.G. The report is under examination.

#### Traffic on Jamnagar-Bedi Line

6134. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jamnagar-Bedi line is going to be closed for Railway traffic in the near future; and