

**Uneconomic Re-conditioned Computers
hired by Railways from IBM**

2004. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have hired uneconomic re-conditioned Computers from the IBM and have paid as rent a sum which accounts for almost the price of the machines so hired;

(b) whether these machines and computers are not being utilised to their full capacity and this poor utilisation has cost lakhs of rupees and also adversely affected the employment potential;

(c) whether serious irregularities in purchase of these machines have also come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, steps being taken to set things right and avoid wasteful expenditure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A few computers of the 1400 series have been taken on rental basis by the Railways from IBM. In terms of the Industrial Licence granted by the Government, such computers supplied by the IBM on hire, or on outright sale, are re-conditioned machines only. These machines are not uneconomic. The rentals paid for these computers are uniform for all IBM customers. For various considerations, it was considered prudent to take these machines on rental rather than to purchase them outright.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). Do not arise, the machines being on hire.

**Proposed reduction in consumption
of Tallow**

2005. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to reduce the consumption of tallow and to reduce dependence on its import from the U.S.A.;

(b) whether shortage of caustic soda and increase in the price thereof are responsible for the disappearance of soaps from the markets in India; and

(c) if so, steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Government have decided that no further import of tallow will be allowed for the soap manufacture by the organised sector.

(b) In the first half of the year 1974 there was some fall in the production of soaps by the organised sector. Indian Soaps and Toiletries Makers' Association stated that in view of the unremunerative prices of soaps, they were unable to purchase adequate quantities of oils at the prevailing high prices.

(c) The informal control on prices of soaps which was in force prior to 19th September, 1974, was lifted from all varieties of soaps, subject to the organised sector of the industry raising production to the optimum level i.e. the best of the last three years and producing a 'Janata' toilet soap to be made available at a price to the consumer of Re. 1.00 to Rs. 1.05 per cake of 100 gms.

**Allocation of more Diesel Oil to
Rajasthan**

2006. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government had approached the Centre for