

(a) whether it is a fact that there is excess of demand over supply in respect of alloy steel;

(b) if so, how is the shortage being met;

(c) the manufacturing capacity for and actual production of alloy steel in the country; and

(d) steps being taken to augment the production capacity in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shortage is for the present met by imports to the extent possible.

(c) The manufacturing capacity already planned is 237,000 tonnes. Actual production in 1968-69 is estimated at 120,000 tonnes.

(d) Steps for augmenting production include restrictive import policy to protect the indigenous industry and rationalisation and standardization of alloy steels. Steps are also being taken to increase production upto installed capacity, and a proposal is under consideration for phased expansion of the Alloy Steel Project, Durgapur. Further, installation of fresh capacity according to licenses already granted is sought to be expedited. Some of the low alloy steels are also contemplated to be produced in the main Steel Plants.

Shortage of Cycle Tyres and Tubes

*831. DR. KARNI SINGH :
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEER-
APPA :
SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH (Kotah):

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

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a great paucity of cycle tyres and tubes;

(b) whether Government are also aware that there is a big black-marketing going on in these commodities and these are not available at all at normal prices; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to overcome this paucity which has hit hard the middle and poor classes of society to whom cycle has become a necessity of daily life ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED). (a) As far as Government are aware, there is no shortage of bicycle tyres and tubes in the country. The requirement of bicycle tyres and tubes during 1968 was estimated at 24 million nos. each and the production was 24.5 million nos. of bicycle tyres and about the same number of tubes.

(b) Due to brand preference, complaints about shortage and consequent overcharging of prices have been reported.

(c) Tyres and tubes have been declared as 'essential commodity' under the Essential Commodities Act, with a view to enabling the State Government/Local Administrations to regulate the acquisition and distribution to the consumers at fair prices.

Bhavnagar-Tarapore Railway Line

* 832. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No' 188 on the 19th November, 1968 regarding Railway line; in Gujarat and state :

(a) whether the survey report in respect of Bhavnagar beer-Tarapore Railway line has since been received by Government;

(b) if so, whether the same has been examined by Government; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised survey reports of the Bhavnagar-Tarapore line are still under examination.

(c) The figures of earnings/cost of construction etc. as brought out in the report have not yet been accepted by the Railway Board. According to the report the line will be about 140 Kms. long and may cost about Rs. 12 crores to construct and is not likely to be financially justified even in the sixth year after completion.

Development of Railways in Kerala

- * 833 SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN :
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount allotted for the development of railways during the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) the total amount allotted to Kerala during the same period; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the amount for development of Railways in Kerala State ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) The Fourth Five Year Plan proposal of the Railways, including financial allotment, are being finalised in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c). The requirements of funds are worked out on the basis of the anticipated increase both in goods and passenger traffic on the Railway system as a whole. Allotment of funds is not made State-wise.

Development of Railways in Kerala

- * 834. SHRIMATI SUSEELA
GOPALAN:
SHRI P. GOPALAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Planning Board of Kerala have suggested any items of work

for inclusion in the Central Schemes for Railway development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to include these schemes in the Central Schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-583/69]

बीकानेर डिवीजन में रेलवे की भूमि

* 835. श्री प० ला० बालूपाल : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर रेलवे के बीकानेर डिवीजन के नहर द्वारा सिंचित क्षेत्र में रेलवे लाइन के पास वाली कृषि योग्य रेलवे भूमि में से कितने शेजर में खेती नहीं की जाती; और

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार उस भूमि को खेती करने के लिये स्थानीय काश्तकारों को आवंटित करने का है ?

रेलवे मंत्री (डा० राम सुभग सिंह) :
(क) लगभग 489 एकड़ ।

(ख) जी हां । नहर क्षेत्र में फ़ालतू जमीन को खेती के लिए नियमानुसार लाइसेंस पर देने के बारे में रेलवे द्वारा विचार किया जाता है ।

Demand for Passenger Motor Cars and Scooters

* 836. SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual demand for (i) Hindustan Ambassador (ii) Fiat (iii) Standard Motor Cars and (iv) Vespa Scooters;