

under which all political parties will have to get themselves registered with the Election Commission to contest elections in the country; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON)** : (a) The Government has no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

#### SHORTAGE OF TYRES AND TUBES

\*1584. **SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA** :

**SHRI K. N. PANDEY** :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of all kinds of tyres and tubes in the country is far below the normal requirements resulting in acute shortage of the commodity;

(b) whether it is due to the fact that the production of rubber in the country has been extremely slow; and

(c) if so, whether Government have investigated the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED)** : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### RAISING OF RESOURCES TO MEET RAILWAY TARGETS FOR 1973-74

\*1585. **SHRI R. K. AMIN** : Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the targets set for 1973-74 for 265 million tonnes of freight traffic and 2700 million originating passengers have been finally accepted by him;

(b) if so, the financial investment required to achieve these targets; and

(c) the manner of raising these resources in each year?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA)** : (a) The total originating freight traffic anticipated in 1973-74 is about 265 million tonnes. The estimated increase in non-suburban passenger traffic during the Fourth Plan period is 23%. However the funds allotted to the Railways are sufficient to cater for only 265 million tonnes of originating traffic in 1973-74 and 20% increase in non-suburban passenger traffic over the Plan period. These targets have been accepted subject, however, to their being reviewed periodically in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Economic Ministries concerned, so as to make timely adjustments.

(b) The total outlay provided in the Plan for the Railways is Rs. 1525 crores.

(c) The Fourth Plan for the Railways has been approved on the understanding that, out of the total expenditure of Rs. 1525 crores, Rs. 585 crores will be made available from the General Resources and the balance Rs. 940 crores will be found by the Railways themselves. This is inclusive of Rs. 525 crores from the Railways' contribution towards the Depreciation Reserve Fund during the Plan period. Within this broad framework, allocations are proposed from year to year depending upon the availability of resources and the requirements.

However in view of the present stringent position of Railway finances, the extent to which funds can be found from Railways' resources is being re-appraised.

#### EXPORT OF STEEL TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

\*1586. **SHRI VALMIKI CHOUHDARY** : Will the Minister of **STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to maintain export