

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

of primary steel—semis, billets, and pig iron—to developing countries even at the cost of internal demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of countries from which pressing demands for these items have been received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). Government's policy is to regulate the exports of pig iron, semi finished steel or finished steel so as to strike a rational balance between the domestic demand, the earnings of foreign exchange through exports, and the maintenance of cordial economic relations particularly with neighbouring friendly developing countries.

(c) The largest demand at present for Indian pig iron and ingots is from Japan. There are demands for billets from several countries including Nepal, Ceylon, Thailand, Mauritius and Iran.

ASHRAM SCHOOLS IN STATES

*1587. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of construction of Ashram Schools, run by certain States under Centrally aided programmes, is very high as compared to other traditional schools and as a result of this many of the States are unable to have more schools of this type;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of these schools in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) and (b). The Ashram type of schools specially set up for the Scheduled Tribe children are residential schools with vocational bias. The inmates are provided free board

and lodging, education and medical facilities. Therefore, the cost of establishment and running of Ashram schools is more than that of other ordinary schools. Ashram schools are set up under the State sector programme by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations depending upon the availability of funds.

(c) The information has been called from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

IMPROVEMENT IN SETTING UP NEW INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS

*1588. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any visible improvement in the coming up of new industrial concerns since the announcement of the new policy; and

(b) if so, in what industries this is noticed and how many parties have approached Government for issuing licences and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The new Licensing Policy was announced only on 18-2-1970. It is too early to make an assessment of the impact of the new policy on the establishment of new industrial concerns. However, during the last two months after the announcement of the new Licensing Policy (*viz.* March & April 1970), 123 applications were received for setting up of New Industrial Undertakings. These applications were for industries such as Automobile Tyres & Tubes, Paper, and Pulp, Sugar, Tractors and Agricultural Equipments, Marine Diesel Engines, Ammonium Sulphate, Caustic Soda, Vanaspati etc. During the corresponding period in 1969, the number of such applications was 98.