

(b) 106.

(c) No.

(d) Due to the phenomenal increase in work-load and responsibilities of officers it was found necessary to re-evaluate the worth of charge of some of the Senior Scale and Junior Administrative grade posts.

BEER FACTORY AT KUTTIKANAM

404. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have taken any decision about setting up of a beer factory at Kuttikanam with West German collaboration; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor in view of the proposed total prohibition after seven years, and the policy of encouraging indigenous know-how?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b). Three applications were received for issue of licences under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act for setting up Beer manufacturing units in the State of Kerala. Of the three applications, the one from M/s. Breweries India Private Ltd., for setting up of an undertaking for the manufacture of Beer at Kuttikanam, Kottayam District, has recently been approved for the issue of a letter of intent, subject *inter alia* to the conditions that no foreign collaboration will be allowed and that the industrial licence, if issued, will be subject to the prohibition policy of the Government in future.

COMPUTERS IN THE RAILWAYS

405. SHRI CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Administration have recently decided to install three more computers;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Railway authorities have assured the

Railway Employees Association that there would not be any retrenchment of staff nor would fresh recruitment be stopped;

(c) what is the number of computers in use at present by them;

(d) whether any assessment has been made of their (i) productivity and (ii) effect on employment; and

(e) if so, what are the results of such assessment ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) The last three orders for installation of computers on the Railways were placed—one for a small card computer for the Moghalsarai Marshalling Yard in June 1968, and two, one each for the North Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railways, in December 1968.

(b) Assurances have been given to organised Railway labour that there will be no retrenchment of staff as a result of installation of computers. Recruitment is governed by several other considerations and no assurance in regard to the level of fresh recruitment has been given.

(c) 11 computers are in use at present—7 on Zonal Railways, one each in the Integral Coach Factory, the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and the Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, and one in the Railway Board's Office.

(d) and (e) Since the computers have been in use only for a very short time, it is too early to make a proper assessment of their productivity. Initially only work which was being done on the Railways on the Unit Record Data Processing machines, which they have replaced, has been transferred to the computers, and transfer of other work is to be adjusted to the staff position from time to time. The computers, even within the short time that they have been in use, have accelerated the internal check of traffic revenues and the compilation of the related accounting figures and statistics, so that results are now available much quicker. In the Production Units a beginning has been made with the use of computers for production scheduling and control, with promising results, and it is proposed to put the computer to use for regulating machine loading in the near

future. These are jobs which could not be done fast enough by manual methods to be effective. The computer in the Railway Board's Office is mainly intended for assisting in wagon control and has already proved its usefulness in the compilation of the Results of the wagon census conducted in October 1968.

The installation of computers has not adversely affected employment on the Railways, and, with the prospect of expansion of traffic and the increase in efficiency which the computers are expected to facilitate, the employment potential on the Railways, as a whole is not likely to be affected in future also.

TYRE AND TUBE SHORTAGE

406. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the detail of the measures taken to meet the current shortage of bus and truck tyres and tubes in the country;

(b) whether any long-term policy has been evolved to avert the constant threat of shortage resulting in rampant prevalence of black-marketing; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) Government have taken the following steps to meet the shortage of bus and truck tyres and tubes:

(i) The various automobile tyre manufacturers have been advised to step up the production of automobile tyres, particularly of categories which are in short supply. For this purpose, Government are also assisting the manufacturers to import the requisite moulds and other balancing equipment.
<ii) Government have also permitted vehicle manufacturers to import 14,000 truck tyres.

<iii) Truck/bus tyres and tubes have been declared as "essential commodity" under the Essential Com-

modities Act to enable the State Governments/local Administrations to regulate the acquisition and distribution of such tyres so that the requirements of the consumers are adequately met. (b) and (c) Government have approved the establishment of additional capacity for the manufacture of automobile tyres and tubes to the extent of 1.45 million nos., out of which capacity to the extent of 1.05 million nos., is by way of expansion of the existing units and for the balance, a new Unit is proposed to be established.

RAW MATERIAL FOR PLASTIC

407. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

fa) whether it is a fact that Government have finalised arrangements for the supply of raw material of Plastic for export at international prices; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the arrangements made and what would be the amount of foreign exchange that can be earned under these arrangements?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some manufacturers in India of polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resin, polystyrene and P.V.C. sheeting have agreed to make supplies of these raw materials available at international prices for export production. Exporters requiring these raw materials have to pass on by nomination in favour of the raw material manufacturer, a part or the whole of the import licence they are eligible for against their exports. To the extent of this nomination, manufacturers of raw materials will supply raw materials at concessional prices based on international prices determined for each such raw material, every quarter, by a committee consisting of representatives of the producers and consumers of the raw materials and concerned Government departments.

Since the above arrangement contemplates supply of indigenous raw materials