

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 :

(a) 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 polythylene, 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