

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

### Rubber Floor Price

9352. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Co-operative Rubber Marketing Federation has urged Government to fix the floor price of rubber at Rs. 24.60 per kg. in view of the increase in cost of production and to extend loan facilities for procuring natural rubber by the Rubber Marketing Federation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) The Kerala State Co-operative Rubber Marketing Federation passed a resolution on 9th Feb. 90 requesting the government to enhance the floor price to Rs. 24.60 per kg.

(b) The bench mark price of rubber is however fixed based on the cost study done by the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance and regular updating is done based on these studies and other relevant factors. The bench mark price for MA-IV grade effective from October 1988 is Rs. 17,800 per tonne.

### Setting up of Aluminium Plant in Kerala

9353. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a large scale aluminium plant in Kerala by the Hindustan Aluminium Co. Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No such proposal has been received by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

### SBI Scheme to promote Carpet Weaving Technology

9354. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) has formulated an extensive scheme for promoting carpet weaving technology;

(b) if so, the total amount the SBI will provide to the carpet weavers under the Scheme;

(c) whether all the branches of the SBI will take up this Scheme; and

(d) the terms and conditions on which assistance will be provided under the Scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Export of Dry Fruits

9355. SHRI HARISHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of dry fruits and fruits being exported from India;

(b) the names of the countries to which these are being exported;

(c) the value of dry fruits/fruits exported last year and the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby;

(d) the target fixed for the export of these commodities during the current year; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to promote export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b). Walnuts among dry fruits and mangoes, grapes, apples, oranges, citrus fruits, water melons etc. among fresh fruits are being exported from India. Walnuts are exported mainly to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait Qatar and UK while fresh fruits are exported to Oman, Kuwait, UAE, Saudia Arabia, Bahrain and Bangladesh.

(c) The quantity and the foreign exchange earned on export of walnuts/fresh fruits during 1988-89 are as under:

	<i>Qty (in Tons) (provision)</i>	<i>Val. (In Lakhs) (Provision)</i>
Fresh mango and other fruits	60,000	4,500
Dry fruits	7,536	576

Figures for dry fruits are for 1986-87  
SOURCE: APEDA.

(d) No individual target has been fixed for specific items for the current year.

(e) Steps taken by Government to promote export include grant of Cash Compensatory Support and import replenishment, organising buyer-seller meets, participation in international exhibitions for developing new markets etc.

#### **Investment of Provident Fund Amount of Non-Government Employees**

9356. PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendations have been received from state Governments to revive the scheme in regard to investment of Provident Fund amount of non-Government

Employees which was in force prior to 1986.

(b) whether Government propose to reintroduce the scheme in force prior to 1986; and

(c) if not, the impediments in the way of reintroduction thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. Suggestions have been received from some State Governments to revive the pattern of investment by non-Government Employees Provident Fund, which was in force prior to 1986.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to reintroduce the scheme which was in force prior to 1986. The Government have however, introduced new schemas like Indira