

Subsidy to Rubber Planters

9421. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total subsidy given by the Rubber Board to the rubber planters in 1989-90;

(b) the subsidy proposed for distribution in the year 1990-91;

(c) the State getting the maximum benefit from Rubber Board; and

(d) whether Government propose to fix support price for natural rubber to avoid wide fluctuation in its price and help small growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b). The total subsidy given by the Rubber Board to the rubber growers during 1989-90 is approximately Rs. 10.65 crores. The subsidy proposed for 1990-91 is Rs. 13.12 crores.

(c) Kerala State is getting the maximum benefit from the Rubber Board.

(d) The Government does not propose to fix support price for natural rubber as the return to the growers vis-a-vis. The Government is, however, taking all possible steps to safeguard the interest of both the growers and rubber consuming industry.

Restriction on Foreign Investment

9422. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 40 per cent restriction on foreign investment announced by Government has been generally welcomed by the foreign investors;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) the anticipated foreign investment under the new policy;

(d) whether any foreign country has expressed dis-satisfaction over this restriction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (e). Under our foreign investment and collaboration policy, foreign equity upto 40% has been the normal limit but investments at higher levels are permitted in export oriented projects or projects involving sophisticated technology. This policy continues. There has been no new policy and as such the question of any other country expressing dis-satisfaction with new policy does not arise.

Creation of Legislative Councils in Tamil Nadu

9423. SHRI B.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has urged Union Government to revive the Legislative Council;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Necessary Bill for the purpose has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 10th May, 1990.