

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The main demands of the rubber growers are:

- (i) Increase the fair price and support price of rubber;
- (ii) Raise the import duty on natural rubber to 65% from the level of 25% charged at that time;
- (iii) Reduction of stock norm to the level of equivalent to one month's consumption from the present level of 3 months' consumption.
- (iv) Withdrawal of proposal for raising the ceiling rate of cess to Rs. 2/- per kg. from the present rate of Re. 0.50 per Kg.

The position in respect of the above demands is given in seriatim as under:

- (i) The Report of the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance, which takes into consideration periodical increases in the cost of various inputs, that go into natural rubber production, has been received and the same is being processed in consultation with all concerned before the revised Bench Mark Price is announced.
- (ii) The normal customs duty on natural rubber is 65%. However, with a view to making available imported rubber to the consuming industry at a uniform rate throughout a particular financial year, efforts were/are being made

to get the customs duty fixed at a lower level.

- (iii) For the present, it has been decided to continue with the stock norm of 3 months.
- (iv) In order to minimise the outgo of valuable foreign exchange and to meet the ever increasing demand of the manufacturing industry, the Rubber Board has launched a number of schemes for increasing the production and productivity of natural rubber, especially in the Eastern and North Eastern parts of the country. It is with a view to generating adequate funds for implementing the developmental schemes, for rubber plantation industry for achieving self sufficiency, that it is proposed to raise the ceiling rate of cess to Rs. 2/- per Kg. from the present rate of Re. 0.50 per Kg.

[*Translation*]

#### **World Bank Aided Project in Bihar**

361. SHRITEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of projects in Bihar being financed by the World Bank; and
- (b) the cost of each such project and the progress made in respect of each so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). Details of on-going World Bank aided projects in Bihar are given in the statement below.

## STATEMENT

*Details of on-going world Bank Aided Projects in Bihar*

<i>Name of the project</i>	<i>Date of Agreement</i>	<i>Project cost in Rs. Crores</i>	<i>Estimated Cost of Bihar component Rs. Crores</i>	<i>World Bank Group assistance \$ million</i>	<i>Cumulative utilisation upto November, 1990 \$ million</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Bihar Public Tubewells	13.1.1987	129.70	129.70	68.00	8.53	
Multi-State Projects						
2. National Agricultural Extension-III.	26.6.1987	182.30	16.14	93.50	23.70	World Bank assistance and disbursement figures cover all participating States.
3. Third National Seeds	22.12.1988	239.60	N.A*	150.00	45.60	
4. State Road	17.11.1988	654.20	143.85	250.00	18.30	
5. Vocational Training	16.6.1989	687.80	20.40	280.00	26.70	
6. Technician	13.8.1990	832.70	87.11	260.00	11.00	
7. Seventh Population	23.10.1990	320.60	74.22	106.70	Not yet effective	

\*Cost of Bihar component not available.