

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Measures to Curb Inflation

332. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual rate of inflation during the past three years and the current year with year-wise break-up; and

(b) the specific measures proposed to be undertaken to check inflation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE) (a) The requisite information is given below.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Annual Rate of Inflation in terms of WPI (1981 82=100)</i>
1986-87	5.1
1987-88	10.7
1988-89	5.7
1989-90 (Upto 9 12.1989)	6.1

(b) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to contain inflation include removing imbalances in the demand and supply of essential commodities, mopping up excess liquidity in the economy and vigorous enforcement of existing laws against hoarding and profiteering.

Legislation to Regulate Chit Funds/ Private Financers

333. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring about uniform legislation throughout the country to regulate the activities of chit funds, private financers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) and (b). While the activities of chit fund companies are regulated by 'Chit Funds Act, 1982', the deposit acceptance activities of the unincorporated bodies etc. are regulated in terms of the provisions of Chapter III-C of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Government have no proposal to bring out any fresh legislation in this behalf.

Circulation of top five Dailies in Malayalam

334. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of the circulation of each of the top five dailies and periodicals published in Malayalam?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): The requisite details are given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of the Paper</i>	<i>Place of publication</i>	<i>Periodicity (1988)</i>	<i>Circulation</i>
Malayala Manorama (4 editions)	Calicut	Daily	2,04,203
	Kottayam	- do -	1,95,362

<i>Name of the Paper</i>	<i>Place of publication</i>	<i>Periodicity (1988)</i>	<i>Circulation</i>
	Cochin	- do -	1,52,335
	Trivandrum	- do -	93,981
Mathrubhoomi (3 editions)	Calicut	- do -	1,82,710
	Cochin	- do -	1,57,907
	Trivandrum	- do -	1,10,477
Kerala Kaumudi	Trivandrum	- do -	1,16,919
Deshabhimani (2 editions)	Cochin	- do -	64,190
	Calicut	- do -	53,691
Express	Trichur	- do -	57,321
PERIODICALS			
Mangalam	Kottayam	Weekly	12,23,963
Malayala Manorama	- do -	- do -	8,70,731
Balarama	— do -	fortnightly	2,24,889
Vanitha	- do -	- do -	2,24,880
Manorajyam	- do	Weekly	1,59,767

Import of Raw Rubber

335. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import raw rubber;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantity of raw rubber proposed

to be imported and the names of countries from where it will be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). Yes Sir, in view of the indigenous production being insufficient to meet the demand, the gap between demand and supply is proposed to be bridged by imports. For the present STC has been advised to contract for 10,000 tonnes of natural rubber as the first instalment. Natural rubber im-