

Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and the orders framed thereunder and the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 is as under :

Year	Number of Firms debarred	Numbers of Firms on which fiscal penalty imposed	Amount of penalty imposed (Rs. in Crores)
1992-93	130	188	48.22
1993-94	40	58	11.71
1994-95	39	38	81.52

[English]

Cotton Cultivation

*366. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India has proposed to introduce new plan to increase productivity of cotton in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated production of cotton vis-a-vis the demand in the country during current year;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to have intensive cultivation of cotton in various States;

(e) if so, the details of new plans to increase the productivity in the cotton growing States; and

(f) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (b). Yes, Sir. The Cotton Corporation of India is implementing projects for production and distribution of certified seeds in States of Karnataka, Gujarat, M.P. and Rajasthan. This programme is proposed to be extended to Punjab during 1995-96.

(c) The estimated production and demand of cotton in the country during the current cotton year, as estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board, is 125.50 lakh bales and 127 lakh bales respectively.

(d) and (e). As per the information supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture a centrally sponsored Intensive Cotton Development Programme is being implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Under this programme, financial assistance is provided to these States for the production of breeder foundation and certified seeds, distribution of certified seeds and organising demonstrations on production technology.

(f) The production of cotton in the country increased from 1.19 lakh bales in 1991-92 to 1.35 lakh bales in

1992-93. However, production in 1993-94 was 121.50 lakh bales because of post attack and cyclone in cotton producing states.

Appropriation of Funds by Banks

*367. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nationalised banks are required to report to the Government or to the Reserve Bank of India, or to their own Directors' Boards, the details of appropriations made from their reserve funds for covering bad and doubtful debts; and

(b) if so, the amount of reserves held and appropriations made therefrom by each of the public sector banks including State Bank of India during each of the accounting years 1992, 1993 and 1994 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The balance of profit in the Profit and Loss accounts is arrived at after making provisions for bad and doubtful debts. These provisions are made with the approval of Board of Directors and auditors of the bank.

Under Section 17(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, banks are required to create a reserve fund by transfer each year a sum equivalent to not less than 20% of profit as disclosed in the Profit and Loss Accounts before any dividend is declared. In case where appropriation is to be made from this reserve the bank has to report to Reserve Bank of India explaining the circumstances for re-appropriation within the prescribed time. Reserve Bank of India has reported that during 1992 to 1994 no such report has been received from any Public Sector bank under this section.

Import of Natural Rubber

*368. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of natural rubber in the international market is higher than the domestic price at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the balance of stock of natural rubber was available with the Rubber Board at the time of decision taken for the import of natural rubber during the current year;

(d) whether the import of natural rubber is against the policy of the Government for filling up the gap between production and demand;

(e) if so, the reasons for such imports; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of rubber growers and to curb the import of rubber?