

Production, Consumption and Export of Rubber

*35. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is enough stock of rubber to meet domestic consumption;

(b) the estimated production and consumption of natural rubber during the current year;

(c) the existing value of the natural rubber in the international market;

(d) whether the Government propose to allow export of rubber; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated production and consumption of natural rubber during the current year is 3,65,000 tonnes and 3,80,000 tonnes respectively.

(c) the existing value of the RSS-3 grade of natural rubber in the international market (Malaysia) is around US \$ 792.

(d) and (e). India has been a net importer of natural rubber so far. Only during the current financial year, it has not been found necessary to import of rubber to meet the demand-supply gap. A decision on export of natural rubber will be taken, if necessary, at the appropriate time.

Interest on Fixed Time Deposits In Post Offices

*36. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is difference in interest rates on fixed time deposits in post offices and the nationalised commercial banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to allow uniform interest rates on fixed time deposits;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The schemes in post offices and banks are not strictly comparable and it is not possible to have complete uniformity in interest rates. However, increase in interest rates on bank deposits is kept in view while reviewing the interest rates on time deposits in post offices.

[*Translation*]

Public Expenditure

*37. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to curtail the public expenditure;

(b) if so, the action taken by the various Government Departments in this regard after issue of these instructions;

(c) the details of the expenditure curtailed so far;

(d) whether the results produced are satisfactory;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to take some concrete steps to curtail the public expenditure; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHAN-TARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have been issuing from time to time a number of instructions to curtail Government expenditure.

(b) to (f). The Revised estimates for the current year are under preparation keeping these instructions in view and these will be presented to Parliament along with the Budget estimates for 1992-93.

Inclusion of Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Bombay and Agra-Indore-Nasik-Bombay National Highways In Expressway System

*38. SHRIGIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Bombay-National Highway and Agra-Indore-Nasik-Bombay National Highway No. 3 in National Expressway system;

(b) whether under the proposed Express way system Delhi-Jaipur stretch has been accorded first priority while Jaipur-Ajmer stretch has been accorded second priority;

(c) if so, whether the Government contemplate to accord first priority to Jaipur-Ajmer road keeping in view the heavy traffic on this route; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Advisory Committee Report on Free Port

*39. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Advisory Committee set up to examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a free port in the country has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The report is expected to be submitted shortly.

Impact of Investments Under New Policy to Upgrade Technology on Employment Generation

*40. SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that investments under the new policy to upgrade technology would lead to higher capital intensity and would lower employment generation; and