

pleased to state

(a) the quantity of rubber required by the tyre factories and the other manufacturing units of rubber products and the quantity of surplus production in rubber in 1971-72,

(b) the difference between the notified floor price and the market price and the steps, if any, taken by Government to bridge the gap, and

(c) the total quantity of purchase of rubber at the notified price according to the accounts of the industrial units, the State Trading Corporation and the co-operative Societies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A C GEORGE) (a) During 1971-72 the consumption of natural rubber of tyre and non-tyre manufacturing factories is estimated at 96,500 M Tonnes. The carry over stock at the end of March, 1972 is estimated at 44,000 M Tonnes

(b) There is no difference between the notified prices and reported market prices of higher grades of rubber like RMA 1 and 2, Pale latex crepes and concentrated lates. However, there is difference in the notified prices and market prices in the case of lower grades of sheet rubber like RMA 3, 4 and 5 and Estate Brown Crepes. The average difference varied from Rs 45 to Rs 60 per 100 kgs. for lower grade sheet rubber as on the 7th March, 1972. The following steps have been taken to ensure the availability of notified prices to the growers -

(i) The State Trading Corporation entered rubber market in October, 1970 and lifted rubber at notified prices from small growers. Till the 4th March, 1972, the STC purchased 17,924 M Tonnes of rubber

(ii) In December, 1971, Government of Kerala were given a loan of Rs 2.5 crores for rubber purchase operation and two instalments of Rs. 50 lakhs each have been released. 670 M Tonnes of natural

rubber was purchased by that Government upto March 4, 1972. The State Trading Corporation and Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation are purchasing rubber from small growers through Co-operative Societies and other Societies dealing in rubber

(iii) The Ministry of Foreign Trade convened two meetings of the Rubber Goods Manufacturing Units—Tyre and non-tyre manufacturing units - to impress upon the industry the need to lift larger quantity of rubber to allow relief to the small growers. It was agreed that the tyre units and M/s Batas Company non-tyre units should maintain 3.5 months stock of natural rubber in their godowns and pipelines while other non-tyre rubber goods manufacturers should maintain 2.5 months stock

(iv) Government is also exploring possibilities of exporting natural rubber

(c) As a result of inspections made by the Rubber Board of purchases of rubber showed that the manufacturers and dealers have generally purchased rubber at notified prices. Very few instances violations have come across and severe action has been taken against the concerned persons

Steps to safeguard Jute exports to U.S.A.

153 SHRI K P UNNIKRISSHANN · Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to reports indicating that the United States is threatening to retaliate against India by stopping jute imports,

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

(c) the steps Government propose to take to safeguard our jute exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) Government are not aware of any such threat.

(b) and (c) : Do not arise.

**Dieselisation of Mangalore-Olavakkot Section (Southern Railway)**

154. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and particulars of trains running with Diesel Engines on Mangalore-Olavakkot broad gauge line in Kerala; and

(b) when the Railways propose to dieselise all the Express and important goods trains on this route ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) and (b). Three Mail/Express trains and a number of goods trains run on the Olavakkot-Shoranur-Cochin Harbour section with diesel locos. More trains are programmed to be dieselised in Kerala during the 4th Plan as part of a phased programme for dieselisation. The allotment of diesel locomotives will depend upon their availability and the relative operating priorities for the various sections/Railways.

**Amendment to Minority Rights**

155. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he made some statements in Kerala on the minority rights guaranteed by the Constitution;

(b) if so, the gists thereof;

(c) whether Government have received representations from Kerala on this issue; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H.R. GOKHALE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The gist of the statement is as under :-

"The Constitution has guaranteed the minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Some minority institutions are misusing this protection by refusing to subject themselves to the regulatory discipline imposed by the State as part of the educational policy of the Government. This will have to be looked into."

(c) No representation in the matter has been received from Kerala in the Ministry of Law and Justice.

(d) Does not arise.

**Tea Corporation**

156. SHRI R.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 202 on the 16th November, 1971 and state :

(a) whether the Tea Corporation has since been registered;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of its constitution; and

(c) whether the employees of the Tea Board will get any benefit as a result of this development ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A.C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). The Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has been registered as a Public Sector company on 21.12.1971 at Calcutta. It will be managed by a Board of Directors of whom 3 will be non-officials and 6 will be officials. This Corporation will undertake commercial operations mainly for marketing of tea in India and abroad and is conceived to benefit the tea industry and increase export earnings.

(c) Does not arise.

**London Tea Centre**

157. SHRI R.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :