

pension with the benefit of merger or without the benefit of merger. Thus, if any employees feels that the revised scheme of pension is not beneficial to him, he can opt out of this scheme and receive pension in accordance with the rules in force prior to 31-3-1985.

Area Under Rubber Cultivation

5985. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the area under rubber cultivation in various States;
- (b) the amount released by the Rubber Board under Rubber Plantation Development Scheme for rejuvenation and for fresh plantations, State-wise;
- (c) whether the amount allotted to Kerala is fully utilised; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Statewise area under rubber cultivation is as follows :—

	(In Hectares)
Kerala	2,71,200
Tamil Nadu	16,300
Karnataka	10,100
Others	10,620
Total	3,08,220

(b) Out of a total amount of subsidy of Rs. 1374.81 lakhs released by the Rubber Board from 1980-81 to 1984-85 under rubber plantation development scheme for new planting and replanting about 90% has been utilized in Kerala, about 4.5% has been utilized in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and about 5.5%

has been utilized in other rubber growing States.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Increase in Disbursal of Housing Loan by Nationalised Banks

5986. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether in view of very serious shortage of housing for poor and middle class people, Government are considering to step up housing loan amount presently disbursed by the nationalised banks;
- (b) the present percentage of total loan advanced to the low income group and the middle income group;
- (c) the present instructions to the banks on these loans; and
- (d) whether Government propose to issue fresh instructions for increasing the present percentages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) . (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has been issuing guidelines to banks for extension of housing finance from time to time since 1979. Reserve Bank of India advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to earmark specific sums every year for lending to individuals and specified agencies for construction of houses, repairs etc. Banks are expected to allocate about 0.5% of their total advances as at the end of previous year for being provided as housing finance, Reserve Bank of India had earmarked Rs. 75 crores for the year 1979, Rs. 100 crores for the year 1981 and Rs. 150 crores for 1983 respectively.

The quantum of funds to be provided for housing in respect of various categories of borrowers for 1983 was as under :

Dirrct finance	(Rs. in crores) Amount earmarked
1. Individuals/groups of borrowers belonging to SC/ST and EWS	30.00
2. Individuals/groups of borrowers belonging to low income groups	20.00
3. Other individuals	15.00
<i>Indirect finance</i>	
1. Investment in guaranteed debentures/ bonds of HUDCO/Housing Boards etc.	75.00
2. Housing Development Finance Corporation	10.00
Total	150.00

The rates of interest and margin stipulated in the Scheme are as under :

Rate of Interest

SC/ST upto and inclusive of Rs. 5000	4.00% p.a.
Others upto and inclusive of Rs. 5000	12.50% p.a.
Over Rs. 5000 and upto Rs. 50,000	13.50% p.a.
Above Rs. 50,000	15.00% p.a.

Margin

SC/ST and Economically weaker sections, Low Income Groups provided the loan amount does not exceed Rs. 5000	20%
Others including loans routed through HDFC	50%