

Perspective Plan for Production of Rubber During Seventh Five Year Plan

4558. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any perspective plan for increasing the production of rubber in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The Sub-Group on Rubber of the Working Group on Plantation Crops which was constituted by the Government for preparing VII Five Year Plan, submitted its report in 1984. Important recommendations of the Sub-Group for stepping up the production and improving the processing and marketing of Rubber are given below :

- (i) The proposed target for expansion of rubber cultivation during the VII Plan is 1,00,000 hectares out of which 39,000 hectares is in traditional areas and 61,000 hectares is in non-traditional area. The target proposed for replantation is 35,000 hectares.
- (ii) Opening of 9 additional nurseries to ensure supply of high yielding planting materials to the growers.
- (iii) Intensification of extension and training activities.
- (iv) A scheme for accelerating development of rubber cultivation in North-Eastern Region envisages rubber planting in 24,000 hectares during 1984-85 to 1989-90.
- (v) For improving processing of Small-holder's rubber processing component of the Kerala Agricultural Development Project financed by the IDA will continue.

(vi) Intensification of research activities on the needs of non-traditional areas.

(vii) The total outlay proposed for VII Plan period is Rs. 150.42 crores.

Credit Limits Sanctioned by NABARD for State Co-operative Banks and Central Co-operative Banks

4559. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) propose to impose conditions of minimum involvement on the State Co-operative Banks and Central Co-operative Banks (25 per cent for SCBs and 40 per cent for CCBs) before they can avail of the credit limits sanctioned by NABARD;

(b) if so, whether the proposed move makes a departure from the position accepted by RBI long ago; and

(c) whether in the above context, NABARD's refinance is sought to be projected as merely supplementary in nature as opposed to the spirit of the preamble to NABARD Bill which acknowledges the role of NABARD as the principal financial institution providing short, medium and long term credit to institutions purveying rural credit and if so, reasons for the existence of NABARD ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) NABARD has decided to fix from the year 1985-86 the minimum level of involvement at 25% and 40% of the internal lendable resources of State and Cooperative Banks respectively. In case of banks whose involvement of internal lendable resources and whose agricultural lending is at present below the recommended norms, NABARD would be taking a pragmatic view and fix initially a suitable level of involvement which would be raised in a phased manner so that no undue hardship is caused to any bank. The minimum involvement of 25% and 40% for State Cooperative Banks and Central Cooperative