

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d) Rubber prices in the past few years have ruled at very remunerative levels. There have been suggestions for increase in the rate of financial assistance on account of increase in cost of cultivation. However, even with present incentives the progress in rubber planting has been satisfactory and a further increase in rates of subsidy/loans would imply coverage of lesser area and number of growers within the limited resources available.

Rules for Regulating Staff Cars for use in Statutory/Autonomous Bodies.

5052. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have framed the rules for regulating the staff cars for the use of Statutory/Autonomous bodies ;

(b) if so, whether the Statutory/Autonomous bodies are empowered to amend these rules, without the approval of the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof in this regard and if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) : The statutory/autonomous bodies frame their own rules regulating use of their Staff Cars and hence these rules differ from one statutory/autonomous body to another.

Amendments to these rules are also carried out by the statutory/autonomous bodies themselves.

Banking Facilities for 'Deficit Blocks'

5053. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has after a survey listed "deficit blocks" in the country which called for immediate banking facilities ;

(b) if so, the names of places identified for the purpose ; and

(c) the facilities sought to be created ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) : The branch licensing policy for 1985-90 recently finalised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) aims at achieving a coverage of 17,000 population per bank office in respect of rural and semi-urban areas of each block. The RBI has identified 1966 deficit blocks where the average population per bank office in respect of rural and semi-urban areas is more than 17,000. RBI has advised all the Lead Banks, State Governments/Union Territories to set up groups in their Districts to identify suitable growth centres where branches are to be opened in deficit blocks. Opening of branches would be considered by RBI on the basis of list of identified centres received by it in accordance with the policy. As such, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the name of places, where branches are likely to be opened in these blocks.

Revamping of IISCO

5054 SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has agreed to revamp the Indian Iron and Steel Company ;

(b) if so the programme drawn up for this ;

(c) the increased production date of the renovation ; and

(d) whether such Japanese help will also be utilised for other project ?