

experience of short lived instability in Andhra Pradesh due to political defections, Government propose to enact anti-defection law as a part of electoral reforms ;

(b) if so, whether the proposals for such a law have been scrutinised by the Law Ministry ; and

(c) if so, the time by which the anti-defection law is likely to be enacted ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) :
(a) to (c). As mentioned in the address by the President to Parliament Government intend to bring forward an anti-defection Bill in the current session of the Parliament.

Production of Rubber

190. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of rubber imported during 1984 ;

(b) the total production of natural rubber in the country and the domestic demand ;

(c) whether user industries are placing an exaggerated demand necessitating higher import ;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to assess the genuine demand ; and

(e) the steps taken to augment production of natural rubber in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :
(a) and (b). The total production of natural rubber during 1984 is estimated

as 2,84,090 tonnes and the consumption is estimated as 2,11,000 tonnes. A quantity of 35,600 tonnes of natural rubber was imported during 1984, to meet the gap and to raise the levels of buffer from 35,000 tonnes to 45,000 tonnes.

(c) and (d) : Preliminary estimates of demand and supply of rubber as projected by the industry and the Rubber Board are evaluated by Government which takes a realistic view of the demand-supply gap keeping in mind past production and consumption trends and in consultation with the Department of Industrial Development and Rubber Board. Estimates thus arrived at are periodically reviewed taking into accounts the actual trends during the course of the year.

(e) The following steps have been taken to augment production of natural rubber in the country.

- (i) Implementation of Rubber Plantation Development Scheme for accelerating new-planting and re-planting of rubber.
- (ii) Raising and distribution of high yielding planting materials.
- (iii) Popularisation of rain-guarded tapping and low-volume spraying against disease for improving productivity.
- (iv) Acceleration of raising of rubber plantation in non-traditional areas.

Retirement Age of Specialists

191. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether special consideration in retirement age is proposed to be given to specialists like scientists, doctors, etc., and