

(a) the details of the works on Calcutta Metro completed so far;

(b) whether further construction work progress has been stopped;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when the work is likely to be resumed and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Out of a total length of 16.43 kms. two separate stretches, viz Esplanade to Tollyganj and Dum Dum to Belgachia, aggregating to 10kms, have been completed and opened for commercial operation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Work is in progress in the remaining length of the Project. Expected time of completion of the Project is 33 months after the remaining plots of land needed for its construction are made available by the State Government of West Bengal.

Increase in Rubber Prices

709. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHAN-
DRASEKHARA MUR-
THY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of rubber go on increasing affecting thereby prices of rubber goods particularly tyres;

(b) whether the Northern India Rubber Manufacture Federation has sought the

immediate intervention of Government to get over the present rubber crises and urged to control rubber prices; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and steps being taken to solve the problem of rubber shortage and also to check the resing trend in rubber prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). During the lean production months the prices of indigenous rubber tend to go up and then with the improved supplies these get stabilised. The prices of imported rubber are, however, dependent on various factors such as international prices/taxes/charges etc. levied on the imported rubber.

The manufactures and their associations including Northern India Rubber Manufacturers Association, have represented about the rise in the prices of rubber and requested for reduction of import duty on rubber to zero level.

The Government is taken all possible steps to contain the rising trend of prices of resorting to adequate imports and timing their releases. Exemption orders for reducing import duty on natural rubber on consignment basis are also being obtained as and when required.

Seizure of Gold, Cash, Jewellery etc.

710. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:
SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN
RAMJIBHAIMAVANI:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: