

<i>Name of the Paper</i>	<i>Place of publication</i>	<i>Periodicity (1988)</i>	<i>Circulation</i>
	Cochin	- do -	1,52,335
	Trivandrum	- do -	93,981
Mathrubhoomi (3 editions)	Calicut	- do -	1,82,710
	Cochin	- do -	1,57,907
	Trivandrum	- do -	1,10,477
Kerala Kaumudi	Trivandrum	- do -	1,16,919
Deshabhimani (2 editions)	Cochin	- do -	64,190
	Calicut	- do -	53,691
Express	Trichur	- do -	57,321
PERIODICALS			
Mangalam	Kottayam	Weekly	12,23,963
Malayala Manorama	- do -	- do -	8,70,731
Balarama	— do -	fortnightly	2,24,889
Vanitha	- do -	- do -	2,24,880
Manorajyam	- do	Weekly	1,59,767

Import of Raw Rubber

335. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import raw rubber;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantity of raw rubber proposed

to be imported and the names of countries from where it will be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). Yes Sir, in view of the indigenous production being insufficient to meet the demand, the gap between demand and supply is proposed to be bridged by imports. For the present STC has been advised to contract for 10,000 tonnes of natural rubber as the first instalment. Natural rubber im-

ports are mainly from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

Pepper Export

336. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:-

(a) the total quantity and value of pepper exported during the period January to October, 1989; and

(b) the share of Kerala in the total exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a)

QTY (MTs.)	VALUE (Rs. in lakhs)
24379	12341

(b) Figures of exports are not maintained statewise.

Election reforms

337. SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons filed nominations as independent candidates for the Lok Sabha Elections held recently;

(b) the number out of them elected and the number who lost their deposits; and

(c) whether Government are considering to introduce reforms in the electoral laws aimed at discouraging non-serious candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSMANI): (a) 3634 inde-

pendent candidates filed their nominations for the Lok Sabha Elections, 1989.

(b) 13 independent candidates were elected. Number of candidates who forfeited their deposits is being collected from the concerned Chief Electoral Officers.

(c) This is among the proposals presently under the consideration of Government.

Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act

338. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Union Government have taken away the residual powers of the State Governments in the matter of mineral concessions etc.;

(b) whether the minerals like dolomite, limestone, bauxite, gypsum, kyanite etc. are now included or proposed to be included in the First Schedule in addition to atomic minerals and precious metals;

(c) whether Government contemplate to examine the whole issue afresh in order to empower the State Governments for grant of control/concessions for the benefit of the local and rural masses; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In 1987 amendments were made in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 primarily to ensure systematic and scientific development of