

Import of Rubber through S.T.C.

2818. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNKACKAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of rubber imported during 1984-85;

(b) the price/value of imported rubber during the last few months;

(c) whether the price of rubber has crashed from Rs. 18 to Rs. 14/50 per kilogram;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the reasons for importing rubber when there is excess production of rubber in the country; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take for protecting the poor and small rubber cultivators ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) During 1984-85, STC imported 26,650 tonnes of rubber excluding 8,500 tonnes which arrived in the financial year 1983-84 (February/March, 1984) but could not be cleared due to Port and Dock Worker's strike. As such, this quantity was also cleared during the year 1984-85.

(b) The release prices of imported rubber are Rs. 16,080 per tonne for RSS-III and Rs. 16,500 per tonne for SMR-20.

(c) The highest and the lowest monthly average prices for different grades of rubber are indicated below :

	(Rs./Kg.)	
	July 84	Nov. 84
Lot rubber	11.28	14.94
RMA-4	18.35	15.48

(d) Fall in price during November, is seasonal because of peak of production period September onwards. This is an annual feature. However low off take of rubber by tyre manufacturing sector was another reason for fall in prices during November, 1984.

(e) The total import during 1984-85 was only to the extent required to bridge the deficit between supply and demand.

(f) Government is watering supply, demand and price trends' of rubber constantly. Imports are allowed only to the extent necessary to bridge the gap between supply and demand and thus the interests of rubber growers including small rubber cultivators are protected. Various schemes are also implemented for the promotion of rubber cultivation in small holding sector.

Requirement of Coal for Raichur Thermal Power Plant (Karnataka)

2819. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal at present required for Raichur Thermal Power Plant in Karnataka; and

(b) whether in view of the acute power shortage in Karnataka for the past 7-8 years Government will approve coal linkage for the expansion of the above thermal plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Coal linkage of 20,000 tonnes per month has been granted for the period April-June 1985 for the Raichur TPS.

(b) Coal linkage for the Raichur expansion (3rd unit—210 MW) was sanctioned by the long-term Special Linkage Committee at its meeting held on 3-10-83.

Jute Industry facing crisis due to fall in Jute Bags

2820. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jute industry is facing acute crisis due to fall in jute bags etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps are being taken to help the Industry for tackling the crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) During the first half of the current jute season 1984-85 (July-June), the demand position was reported to be good and the jute goods prices were favourable,