

memorandum to the Expert Committee on textile Industry in its meeting on the 4th March, 1985. The Expert Committee will take into consideration the the memorandum alongwith other suggestions received, while preparing its report.

Development of Rubber Plantation in North Eastern Region.

275. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop rubber plantation in the North Eastern Region ;

(b) if so, the details of the said proposal ;

(c) the progress of far made in this regard ;

(d) whether Government are considering to set up rubber industries in that region having plenty of rubber ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the steps taken by Government for extending other possible help so that rubber-based industries could come up there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project has been approved by the Government in 1984 for (i) strengthening the existing Regional Offices at Agartala and Guahati and opening of a new Regional Office at Silchar and a zonal office at Guauhati (ii) setting up of a Research Complex with 4 Stations one each in Maghalaya, Tripura, Assam and Mizoram (iii) setting up of a 1000 hectares Nucleus Rubber Estate and Training Centre in Tripura and (iv) strengthening of information and communication services. The project envisages expansion of rubber cultivation to 24,000 hectares in the Region during the period 1984-85 to 1989-90. Total outlay of the project for the above period is Rs. 6.18 crores.

(c) Steps have been taken to strengthen existing Regional offices and opening the new Regional and Zonal Offices. Recruitment of staff is in progress and some of them are already in position. Formalities for acquisition of land for establishment of Research Stations, Experimental farms, Nucleus rubber estates and training centre in Tripura have almost been completed. Nurseries have been established for the Research Centres in Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam. An officer of the status of Joint Rubber Production Commissioner has already assumed charge for implementation of the Scheme.

(d) No, Sir. However, entrepreneurs are free to set up the industries in the private sector.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Committee on Black Money

276. SHRI AJOY BISWAS :
SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Raja Chelliah Committee on black money has submitted its report ; and

(b) if so, what are recommendations of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Jute Industry facing crisis due to Shortage of Raw Jute

277. SHRI AJOY BISWAS :
SHRI ANAND PATHAK :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the jute industry is facing severe crisis this year due to shortage of raw jute ;