

plantation development during the VIIIth Plan period.

(c) The production and consumption of natural rubber during 1984-85 is placed at 1,86,450 tonnes and 2,17,510 tonnes respectively.

(d) and (e). The quantity and value of natural rubber imported during the last two years has been as under :

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1983-84	32,175	3566
1984-85	32,408	3529

#### Monitoring of the Banking Activities in Eastern Region

2947. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been closely monitoring the banking activities in the Eastern Region;

(b) if so, whether steps have been taken to improve the performance of the nationalised banks in the region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The banking activities in the country including those in the Eastern Region are continuously/monitored through various forums such as the Regional Consultative Committee, the State Level Bankers Committee, the State Level Coordination Committee and the District Consultative Committee. In addition, the Boards of the public sector banks also continuously monitor the activities and performance of the banks in all sectors of activity.

The Minister of State for Finance recently presided over the meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee meeting of

the eastern region held at Calcutta on November 4, 1985 where the banks were advised to draw up action programmes for accelerating banking development in the region, maintain the tempo of branch expansion and step up the credit deposit ratio in the region. Subsequently he also met a cross-section of bank customers at Calcutta on November 16, 1985 when their complaints were heard and appropriate remedial action was indicated.

#### Leakage of Government Decision Regarding Hike in the Import Duty on TPA

2948. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a textile manufacturing unit of Bombay, through an engineered leak got over the Government's decision to hike import duty on TPA the main raw material for producing polyester yarn;

(b) whether Government have ordered an enquiry into the whole matter; and

(c) when the enquiry report is likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). There is no clear evidence of any leakage of the Government's decision hiking import duty on TPA. However, it has come to the notice of the Government that a textile company at Bombay had placed orders for import of TPA in huge quantities immediately before the change in the Import Policy, whereby, on 29-5-1985, TPA was transferred from OGL into "limited permissible" category for purposes of import licensing.

(c) The matter is presently under investigation but no definite date can be indicated for the completion of the investigation.