

For retrieval of the cargo of natural rubber lying at Shantou, STC's underwriters M/s National Insurance Co. arranged to file a suit in the Guangzhou High Court and the judgement has gone in favour of the plaintiff (STC).

The vessel "TROPICAL QUEEN" also carried a consignment of 3 Parcels of Palm Fatty Acids Distillate (PFAD) amounting to 1450 tonnes for import in India. Payment for one of the parcels of PFAD was initially released by STC under reserve. No payment was made for the two balance parcels of PFAD. On account of the vessel having been diverted, STC called back the payment of one parcel through banking channels. STC did not, therefore, prefer any claim for PFAD.

The judgement of the Chinese High Court has ordered that the natural rubber cargo totalling 1567 MT (recovered out of the original 2500 MT shipped) be returned to the plaintiff who must reship the rubber cargo at their own cost. STC's insurers, M/s National Insurance Co. to whom rights to cargo had been subrogated by STC are to arrange either to sell the cargo within China or to ship it to a port such as Singapore where it can be disposed off. The proceeds of such disposal would go to the National Insurance Co. As regards PFAD, no claim has been filled by STC as STC had been paid for the cargo.

A similar incident occurred in August 1984, when (a) a consignment of 1800 MT of PFAD on board 'Ocomos Prosper' was illegally diverted. Part of the PFAD cargo (875 tonnes) was off-loaded at Singapore. This was retrieved from there in good order and shipped to India at the cost of Insurance Company. The balance quantities of PFAD was considered as lost and paid for by the Insurance Company, and (b) a consignment of 1800 MTs of Natural Rubber was also on board the same ship. This too was illegally diverted. The consignment was considered a total loss in view of the fact that the goods had been stolen. It is understood that these reached Taiwan to whom these were illegally sold by a Thai Company. M/s National Insurance Co. Ltd paid STC's claim in full in this case too. Shipment

of natural rubber has now been restricted to vessel which have prior approval of General Insurance Corporation.

Excise duty on Polyester filament yarn and Polyester Staple Fibre

11090. DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

DR. DATTA SAMANT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the benefits of excise duty reduction on Polyester filament yarn and polyester staple fibre has not reached the consumers as most of the manufacturers raised their prices just before the budget ;

(b) whether in some cases cloth will actually be more expensive than it was before the Budget ; and

(c) if so, the positive steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c). The prices of polyester staple fibre and polyester filament yarn fluctuate on account of market forces. The prices of these products were generally lower in February, 1988 as compared to the prices in January, 1988. The manufacturers have, by and large, passed on the benefit of excise duty relief announced in the budget to their consumers.

Consequent to the reduction of excise duty on synthetic fibres and yarns, there has been a fall in prices of some varieties of synthetic fabrics, ranging from 50 paise to Rs. 2 per metre.

Show cause notices issued by Directorate of Enforcement

11091. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 15 April, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 7059 regarding show cause notices issued by Directorate of Enforcement and state :

(a) the number of show cause notices issued during 1985 and 1986 ;

(b) the number of cases pending for adjudication on the 1 January of 1985, 1986 and 1987 ;

(c) the number of new cases taken up for adjudication during each year ;

(d) the number of prosecutions launched during the year ; and

(e) the number of cases finalised during the year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e). The statistical data sought for of the cases under FERA is given below :

	1985	1986	1987
(a) No. of Show Cause Notices issued.	4362	6228	7751
(b) No. of cases pending for adjudication.	5089	5851	7870
(c) No. of new cases taken up for adjudication.	4362	6228	7751
(d) No. of prosecutions launched.	708	649	147
(e) No. of cases finalised.	284	464	331

Import of Steel Castings by USSR

11092. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the USSR has placed order for importing steel castings ;

(b) if so, the total amount of steel castings proposed to be imported by the USSR ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c). The Indo-Soviet Trade Plan for the year 1988 provides for export of iron and steel castings and forgings to USSR. No order for export of steel castings to USSR has been registered so far with EEPC during 1988.

Allocation of Funds for Upgradation of Standards of Revenue and District Administration

11093. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount earmarked for the upgradation of standards of Revenue and District Administration in the country during the Seventh Plan period ;

(b) the amount allocated to different States for the said purpose during the Seventh Plan so far, year-wise ; and

(c) the Revenue districts in Orissa identified by Union Government for upgradation under this Central sponsored scheme of his Ministry and the steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The total allocation for the Upgradation of Standards of Revenue and District Administration in the country for 1985-89, is Rs. 2489.34 lakhs.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) In pursuance of the recommendations made by the Eighth Finance Commission and the guidelines issued thereunder, the State Governments are required to