

Import of Rubber

662. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI P.A. ANTONY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government intend to import rubber during 1988-89;

(b) if so, the quantity of rubber to be imported and the estimated demand for natural rubber in the country during 1988; and

(c) the reasons for import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The internal production of rubber being inadequate to meet the demand, the gap between demand and supply is met through imports. The preliminary estimates made by the Rubber Board place the likely consumption for 1988-89 at 305,000 tonnes and the likely imports between 40-50 thousand tonnes.

Crop Loss due to Lowering of Ground Water Level

663. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States where ground water levels have fallen during 1987-88;

(b) whether Government have assessed loss suffered due to lowering of water levels in most intensively cropped areas of the country; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to see that withdrawals do not exceed recharge level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Fall in Ground Water levels during the period May, 1987 and November, 1987, has been observed in parts of States of Rajasthan, Gujarat,

Western Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government of India has circulated a model bill to States for enactment of suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water withdrawals.

Committee to Review Security Arrangements in Banks

664. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India in March, 1987 to review the security arrangements in banks; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India in March, 1987 to review the security arrangements in banks, has made several recommendations covering various aspects of bank security such as location of new branches, classification of branches, location of strong rooms, location of sentry posts and guard rooms, currency remittances, use of electronic equipments, setting up of security planning cell in RBI, setting up of State-level security committees etc. RBI has reported that it has set up a Security Planning Cell and has also set up State-level security committees, comprising senior bank officials and State Government officials for considering all aspects of bank security in each State.

Scheme to Upgrade Fashion Image

665. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Apparels do not have fashion image in the affluent Western countries as reported in Economic Times dated 12 January, 1988, and