

### **Fixation of Minimum Price of Natural Rubber**

3378. SHRI GEORGE MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the minimum price of natural rubber taking into consideration the cost of production incurred by small growers; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to fix a new fair minimum price from 1st of April 1978 in order to do justice to the small growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG) (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised minimum price of rubber notified on 6th August, 1977 is for the period upto the end of March, 1978. The position will, however, be reviewed before 31st March, 1978.

### **Export of surplus Natural Rubber through S.T.C.**

3379. SHRI GEORGE MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of natural rubber that is remaining excess in the market till the end of October 31st, 1977;

(b) whether Government have issued directions to the S.T.C. to export all the surplus natural rubber; and

(c) will the Government of India allow export of rubber without limitation, through all possible export sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) The quantity of surplus natural rubber in the country at the end of 1977-78 is estimated to be around 12,000 tonnes.

The actual figures of excess rubber at the end of October, 1977 are not yet available.

(b) and (c). So far export of rubber is allowed only through S.T.C. During 1977-78, S.T.C. has been authorised to export a quantity of 5,000 tons rubber in the first instance. Proposal for authorising export of a further quantity of rubber by S.T.C. is under consideration.

### **Aerodrome near "Thekkady" in Kerala**

3380. SHRI GEORGE MATHEW: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have plans to open a small Aerodrome near "Thekkady" in Idukki district of Kerala, which is a tourist paradise; and

(b) if so, when will work start on the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURSHOTAM KAUSHIK): (a) No sir.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

### **Foreign Exchange earned by Keralites Working Abroad**

3381. SHRI GEORGE MATHEW: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by Keralites working abroad in the financial year 1976-77; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to allow Kerala Government to use the above foreign exchange to set up industries in Kerala with foreign collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) There are no reliable data giving the State-wise distribution of foreign exchange earnings remitted by Indians working abroad.