

will be dependent upon further relaxation in entry restrictions into this area, and keeping in view the suggestions received from the State Governments for taking up the development of 2 centres/schemes in the Central Sector.

Rise in the Prices of Natural Rubber

8977. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any rise in the prices of natural rubber during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the steps Government have to augment the buffer stock of natural rubber and to check the rise in its price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The average price of lot rubber comprising of RMA. 3, 4 and 5 grades at Kottayam market during 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 was Rs. 595.96, Rs. 632.11 and Rs. 953.43 respectively per quintal.

(c) The rise in the rubber prices is consequent on a shortfall in the production of rubber during the years 1977-78 and 1978-79. To augment the stock of natural rubber in the country and to check the rise in its price, 14,750 tonnes of natural rubber was imported during September-October 1978. On a further review of the demand-supply position import of an additional 15,000 tonnes of natural rubber was allowed during 1978-79.

Cases Detected in Connection with Contravention of F.E.R.A.

8978. CH. HARI RAM MAKKASAR GODARA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases detected during the last one year involving big business houses and others as well for contravention of FERA;

(b) the nature of offences and the amounts involved; and

(c) the nature of action taken in the matter and appreciation given to the officers who detected the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) The number of cases detected and Show Cause Notices issued during the last one year (1st April, 1978 to 31st March, 1979) in respect of offences for contravention of FERA is 2844.

(b) and (c). It would involve much time and labour to furnish for all these cases the details about the nature of offences, amount involved, nature of action taken and appreciation given to officers who detected the cases.

Agreement between India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand and Burma Re. Jute

8979. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute producing countries like India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand and Burma recently met at Kathmandu to discuss various problems of jute in the international market;

(b) if so, whether any agreement among these producing countries could be arrived at; and

(c) if so, the details of the agreement?