

Delay in Implementation of the New Planting Scheme of Rubber Board

661. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the delay in implementing the new planting scheme of Rubber Board, when this scheme has been pending before the Government of India for more than a year;

(b) when the cost of production of rubber has gone up very high recently, the reasons why Government of India are not taking steps to increase the floor price of rubber; and

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to revive the spraying subsidy for the small rubber cultivators that has been discontinued by previous Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Rubber Plantation Development Scheme received from the Rubber Board in April 1980 is under active consideration of the Government.

(b) After review of the cost of production of rubber, the minimum price of rubber was raised from Rs. 655/- a

quintal fixed in August, 1977 to Rs. 825/- a quintal for RMA-I grade of rubber with differentials for other grades with effect from 18th April, 1979. The average prices since then have been well above this figure.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration to revive the spraying subsidy.

Ban on Export of Snake-Skins

662. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of snakeskins has been banned, if so, since when and for what reasons; and

(b) the figures of snake-skins export and its value during the last three years before the ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes Sir, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture, the export of Snake skins was banned from 18th December, 1975, for ecological reasons.

(b) A Statement showing quantity and value of exports of snake skins during 1975-76 to 1978-79 is attached.

Statement

Export Figures of snake Skins

(Quantity in Thousand Nos)

(Value in Rs. Lakhs.)

Year	Snake Skins other than pythons			
	Undressed		Tanned	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1975-76	..	..	999	159.97
1976-77	..	..	3076	364.76
1977-78	1	4.13	26	122.06
1978-79	..	..	..	..

Sources:—Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India.

Note :—Figures are provisional and subject to revision. The unit of quantity for the year 1977-78 is in tonnes.