

be involved in compiling their names and collecting detailed information will be disproportionately high. If the Hon'ble Member specifies the particulars of the case(s) in respect of which detailed information is required, the same will be collected and furnished.

Affect on consumption of steel due to increase the prices of steel

7281. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent increase in prices of steel has affected the consumption of steel; and

(b) if so, which fields the consumption has been affected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There have been no indications so far that the recent increases in prices of steel have significantly affected the consumption of steel in any field.

Setting up of Central Government Employees Hire Purchase Society

7282. SHRI CHANDRA PAL SHAILANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain employees of the Ministry of Finance have set up a 'Central Government Employees Hire Purchase Society' with its head office located in North Block, New Delhi, and since when it has been functioning;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present Managing Committee of the Society has outlived its normal duration and has been functioning in contravention of the provisions of the constitution of the society;

(c) whether a large number of complaints have been received by the Ministry and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Delhi about the unconstitutional functioning of this Society and other malpractices and irregularities of the Office bearers;

(d) whether any action has been taken in the matter; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) This is a matter which does not directly fall within the purview of the Central Government. There is, however, a Federal Co-operative Society registered under the name of the Government Employees Central Hire Purchase Co-operative Society Ltd. registered by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Delhi, of which the primary Hire-Purchase Societies are members also. This Federal Society was registered on 29-12-1967.

(b) The bye-laws of the society provide that 1/3rd members of the Managing Committee will be elected after the expiry of one year. The Society last held the election of the Managing Committee on 12-1-1978 and proposes to hold the next election in the month of May, 1981.

(c) Complaints have been received against the malfunctioning of the Society and also regarding the irregularities committed by an office bearer of the Society.

(d) and (e) The complaints received in this regard are being investigated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Delhi.

Rubber cultivation in North Eastern States

7283. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the incentives intended to be provided for rubber cultivation in areas identified for this purpose in the North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): The Rubber Board is implementing an integrated scheme called "Rubber Plantation Development Scheme" which aims at large scale expansion of rubber cultivation in the country

including areas in the North Eastern Region. Incentives given under this scheme are:—

(1) Cash subsidy of Rs. 5,000 per hectare for growers, owning rubber plantation upto 20 hectares and Rs. 3,000 per hectare for growers owning above 20 hectares.

(2) Input subsidy to rubber growers owning an area of less than 6 hectares, such as half cost of fertilizers, reimbursement of full cost of planting materials and assistance for soil conservation at Rs. 150 per hectare.

(3) Growers undertaking planting of rubber under this scheme can also avail of long term loan upto Rs. 15,000 per hectare under the Agricultural Credit Scheme of the Agricultural Refinance Development Corporation from nationalised Banks. The Rubber Board will meet 3% of interest on such loans upto the tenth year of planting advanced to all categories of growers excepting large growers undertaking replanting.

(4) Free advisory and extension service to rubber growers at all stages of planting and maintenance.

Two Regional Offices of the Rubber Board have been opened at Gauhati and Agartala for providing advisory and extension services for the growers in the North-Eastern Region. The Board has also been giving assistance to State Governments in this Region by training workers and plantation executives, supplying skilled workers and training local workers in skilled jobs etc. apart from supplying high yielding planting materials.

Issuing of new series of fifty rupees notes

7284. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI:
SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue a new series of fifty-rupee currency notes, showing Par-

liament House with national flag atop on its reverse;

(b) if so, whether Government with a slight modification, propose to print a picture of Baba Saheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on the reverse of the new fifty-rupee currency notes and Parliament House with national flag in the background to mark his 25th death anniversary falling on 6th December, 1981;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the refusal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The 50-rupee note has been redesigned pursuant to the assurance given to the Parliament for rectifying the omission of the National Flag from the building of Parliament House on the reverse of the note. There was no proposal to incorporate therein the portrait/statue of any national leader.

(d) After Independence, Government have issued notes with the effigy of Mahatma Gandhi only. However, commemorative coins with the portraits of only two eminent persons have been issued—Nehru Coins in 1964 and Gandhi Coins in 1969. Since then despite representations, from time to time, Government have adhered to the decision that notes or coins with the portraits of eminent persons or any event associated with them should not be issued because once Government goes beyond the above mentioned exceptions, it would be difficult to draw the line and resist similar other demands from various quarters and communities.

Iron and Steel requirements of Orissa

7285. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the small scale industries and entrepreneurs of Orissa are facing a great set-back due to scanty supply of iron