

culture, performing and other arts, handicrafts etc. of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

Cardamom Trading Corporation

3875. DR. SUBRAMANIAM
SWAMY:

SHRI NIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to set up a Cardamom Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including its functions and composition stating the number of officials and non-officials thereon)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) A proposal to set up Cardamom Trading Corporation in Karnataka is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The Corporation proposed to be set up in Karnataka State will have the following objectives:—

(1) To ensure fair returns to the growers of cardamom.

(2) To start depots in important producing centres to purchase cardamom directly from the growers at reasonable prices to be fixed on the basis of quality of the products.

(3) To discourage the existing large number of intermediaries between the producers and consumers.

(4) To conduct auctions and sell cardamom to the dealers, regularly at all important centres.

(5) To take up internal distribution of cardamom in the country through its own depots and agents; if necessary.

(6) To enter the export market and take steps to export cardamom.

The composition of the Corporation has not been decided so far.

Price of Rubber

3876. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rubber imported from January onwards and the price of rubber per ton imported; and

(b) what was the price of indigenous rubber in January, 1981 and what is the prevailing price in the market, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) A quantity of 36400 tonnes of natural rubber with an average c.i.f. price of Rs. 9900/- per tonne has been imported so far from January, 1981

(b) Rs. 13750 per tonne and Rs. 12450 per tonne were the maximum and minimum prevailing prices of lot rubber at Kottayam market during the month of January, 1981.

The present price of lot rubber at Kottayam Market is Rs. 13900/- per tonne (as on 5th September, 1981).

Performance of Public Sector Banks

3877. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been undertaken of the performance of the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the results of such review; and

(c) has any programme for further expansion of branches of the Public sector banks has been drawn up as a result of the review?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). Various aspects of the perfor-