

### Functioning of Rubber Board

5353. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has been functioning without a full-time Chairman for a long time now;

(b) when this post is proposed to be filled up;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Rs. 100 crore Rubber Development Plan has been in operation for over a year now;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the progress of the Plan has been held up owing to lack of adequate staff and whether as a result tens of thousands of applications from small growers have been awaiting clearance in the Board offices;

(e) whether this matter has been repeatedly brought to the notice of Government by resolutions passed in the Board meetings; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The Chairman, Cardamon Board is functioning as Chairman, Rubber Board also.

(c) to (f). Government have approved a Rubber Plantation Scheme involving an outlay of Rs. 49.7 crores over a period of 14 years. The scheme has been progressing well so far. Thirty thousand hectares have been planted during the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 as against the target of twelve thousand hectares per year. Since May 1981 Government sanctioned 115 posts of various categories specially for the implementation of this Scheme.

### Chit fund companies and finance investment trusts

5354. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing the names and addresses of Chit Fund Companies and other Finance Investment Trusts operating in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): According to the information with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) there were 1301 conventional chit fund companies as on 30th June, 1982.

Presumably in referring to Finance Investment Trusts, the hon'ble Member has in mind the position regarding the investment companies. According to the information available with the Reserve Bank of India there were 2910 investment companies as on 30-6-82.

The collection and compilation of the requisite information in respect of such large number of companies will not only be voluminous, but also the effort involved in doing so may not be commensurate with the results intended to be achieved.

### Export of Molasses

5355. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to export molasses which is very much in surplus in the country;

(b) if Government have taken such a decision then by what time surplus molasses will be exported; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of allowing such exports under OGL and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Some quantities of molasses have been relea-