

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-

sed for exports from surplus States. However, the international market for molasses at present does not permit economically viable exports. One contract for export of 10,000 MT has been concluded and shipments are expected to take place shortly. A close watch is also being maintained on the international market situation, as also domestic supply position.

(c) The export policy for molasses has been framed keeping in view various factors including domestic demand, use of molasses in the country, and the fact that molasses is a controlled item. Presently, exports of molasses are canalised through STC.

Import and Export of Industrial Alcohol

5356. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to import industrial alcohol;

(b) whether it is a fact that the industrial alcohol now being produced in the country is all time high and much in excess of the country's requirement;

(c) whether requests have been received by Government for permission to export industrial alcohol; and

(d) if so, whether permission has been given and the quantity to be exported during 1982 and 1983?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Government have no proposal to import industrial alcohol. However, the item Ethyl alcohol appears in Appendix 3 of import policy and its import is regulated accordingly.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Request for export of rectified spirit has been received and is under consideration.

Calcutta International Airport

5357. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by his Ministry so far to fully utilise the infrastructure built at the Calcutta International Airport by diverting more services via that Station; and

(b) have Government ever considered the desirability of starting some international services of Air India to the East and West from Calcutta to, utilise fully the Calcutta Airport; if so, what and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) During negotiations for conclusion of new Air Services agreements and review of the existing agreements Calcutta is invariably offered as a point of call to foreign airlines.

(b) Air India had carried out a market survey and the findings reveal that the capacity offered by Air India is sufficient to cater to the present market ex-Calcutta. Therefore, deployment of additional capacity would not be economically viable.

Resident Directors of Public Undertakings in the Capital

5358. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the common practice with the Public Undertakings and Statutory Corporations to post a Resident Director in the Capital in addition to the high-powered Regional Director's/Manager's organisation already in existence; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry are consulted on the creation of such posts of Resident Directors in the capital by the administrative Ministry concerned?