

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) STC has contracted for supply of about 21,000 tonnes of natural rubber so far during the current year. Of this about 7000 tonnes has already been imported.

(c) Import of rubber valued Rs. 22.80 crores (C & F) is being arranged from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Sri Lank.

(d) It is expected that the imports being effected will bridge the gap between demand and indigenous supply for the present.

#### Talks with Trade Unions regarding Demands of L.I.C. Employees

2244. PROF. MADHU DANDVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether preliminary talks with various trade unions in the LIC were held by the LIC management to identify the demands of the LIC employees ;

(b) if so, whether the management and the Ministry have processed those demands identified by the LIC Unions ; and

(c) if so, when will the talks with the unions be held for further discussions and finally settle the demands of the Life Insurance Corporation Employees?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) It has been reported by the Corporation that the representatives of the employees met the Management on 19th and 20th April, 1983 and discussed their demands. It has also been reported that since then some representatives of the employees have been occasionally meeting the management.

The Corporation has reported that some of the demands have already been settled and others are being considered for appropriate action.

#### Army engaged in Work for the Ecological Preservation in Rajasthan

2245. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Army is going to be engaged in work for the ecological preservation in Rajasthan ; and

(b) whether the defence Ministry has such other projects in other parts of the country where ecological balance is in jeopardy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) An Ecological Task Force is proposed to be raised consisting of ex-Servicemen of the local area under the Territorial Army to take up the ecological preservation work in some parts of Rajasthan. All schemes of ecological development are processed by the Department of Environment in Government of India. That Department decides the agency to be utilised for execution of such schemes for ecological development.

#### Irregularities in Finance Tea Gardens in Assam and West Bengal

2246 SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports appeared in the Business Standard of 27th June, 1963 where in it has been stated that Tea Finance Banks have committed serious irregularities in financing the tea gardens in Assam and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and