

1983-84 and the quantity likely to be imported during the current year 1984-85;

(c) the amount involved in the import of rubber during the above period.

(d) whether production of rubber in the country has declined; if so, by how much during the said period and the reason therefor;

(e) the steps being taken to increase the production of rubber in the country;

(f) whether any other part of the country has been surveyed for the production of rubber; if so, the details thereof and the result achieved; and

(g) whether any target time has been fixed for achieving self-sufficiency in the field of rubber production ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The quantities of rubber imported during the last three years are as under :

Year -	Quantity (In tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1981-82	42,750	3666.60
1982-83	30,050	2370.41
1983-84	31,200	3692.41
1984-85	30,000	3500.00
(authorised to be imported)		(approx.)

(d) to (f) No, Sir. However, Government has taken various steps to increase the production further by way of giving cash subsidy and interest subsidy to growers and also providing free extension advisory support.

A programme for developing rubber cultivation in North Eastern State has been undertaken. Possibilities of rubber cultivation in other States like Orissa, are also being explored.

(g) It is estimated that provided adequate and suitable land for new rubber plantation is made available, we may be in a position to attain self-sufficiency by 2000 A.D.

Working Group on Processed Food Exports

3759. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a working group has been set up by Government to go into all aspects of processed food exports and to facilitate all-round development of these products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how far it will be helpful to increase export;

(c) the present range of export of processed food;

(d) the target fixed for the export of processed food and the main items being exported;

(e) the names of the countries which are importing processed food from India; and

(f) the steps being taken to popularise our products in other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Commerce have undertaken an exercise, in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments and the trade to identify problem areas affecting the growth of our exports of various processed food items and to revamp the institutional

arrangements for the growth of export of various items including value-added consumer products. No formal working group has, as such, been set up.

(c) and (d) The target for export of processed foods during 1984-85 has been fixed at Rs. 275.00 crores. The present range of export of processed foods comprises of fresh fruits & vegetables, preserved fruits and vegetables, meat & meat products, poultry products, guar gum products, cereal foods, walnuts, basmati rice, and other miscellaneous food preparation.

(e) At present our processed foods are exported mainly to USSR, U.K., USA, Australia, West Germany, France, Italy, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Yemen Arab Republic.

(f) The steps taken to popularise Indian processed foods abroad include participation in specialised international food fairs and exhibitions, sponsoring of sales teams in the targeted markets, invitation of trade delegation from abroad, undertaking of generic and brand publicity in overseas markets, etc.

Suppliers of Currency Note Paper to Currency Note Press, Nasik

3760. SHRI A.R. MALLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding the suppliers of currency note paper to Currency Note Press, Nasik Road :

(b) the terms and duration of the contract for the supply of the currency note paper; and

(c) whether it has been noticed that bad quality of currency note paper is being used causing inconvenience to the public ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The bulk of

the requirement of Currency Note Press, Nasik Road for security paper is met by supplies from the Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad, which is a Departmental unit of the Government of India. Security paper is also imported occasionally whenever the requirement of such paper exceeds the production at Hoshangabad. This is imported on the basis of terms and conditions specified in the Supply Order issued on the supplier which contains clauses regarding the prices, payment, agency commission, marking, packing, inspection authority, terms of delivery schedule, insurance, documents of inspection, security deposit, warranty clause stipulating replacement free of charge on C.I.F. site basis of defective paper as a result of faulty manufacture or on account of poor quality of material used or due to any other reason which may render it below specification and unsuitable for printing of Bank and Currency Notes.

By and large the paper supplied by the Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad as well as that imported conforms to the required specification.

Projects to be Financed with the Assistance of Asian Development Bank

3761. SHRI A.R. MALLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has sought some amount from the Asian Development Bank during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the projects that are going to be financed with assistance; and

(d) the amount likely to be released project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The Government of India has indicated to