

- (iv) Armed R. P. F. staff are deployed in the affected yards and sections.

Conversion of Metre Gauge Lines into Broad Gauge in Central Railway Zone

385. SHRI G. C. DIXIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have drawn up a perspective plan for the conversion of metre gauge tracks into broad gauge in the Central Railway Zone; and

(b) the estimated cost of the Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) None of the sections included in the perspective plan prepared by the Railway Ministry for conversion from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge, fall on the Central Railway.

(b) Does not arise.

Controlled Varieties of Cloth for Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and NEFA

386. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTJ : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Agents for controlled varieties of cloth for Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and NEFA;

(b) the quantities of controlled varieties of cloth allocated to each of these agents in 1971; and

(c) the quantities lifted to Assam by each agent for Assam during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Since there is no statutory control on distribution of cloth the mills are free to sell cloth to the dealers/agents of their choice, whose names are not within the knowledge of the Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Minimum Price of Rubber

387. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the monthly average level of prices of rubber ever since the minimum price was announced; and

(b) whether Government have suggested to the State Trading Corporation to step up their purchase of rubber substantially in order to maintain the minimum price ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) A statement containing the required information is attached.

(b) In October, 1970, State Trading Corporation was directed to undertake purchase of rubber upto 2,000 tonnes. This has since been stepped upto 8,000 tonnes to maintain prices. Recently the Kerala State Government has been granted a loan of Rs. 2.50 crores for purchase of rubber from small growers in addition to STC's purchases.

Statement

The reported monthly average price of lot rubber comprising RMA III, IV and V is as under :

<i>Month</i>	<i>Average price per quintal</i>
	Rs.
12th to 30th September, 70	472.00
October, 1970	470.00
November, 1970	482.00
December, 1970	473.00
January, 1971	477.00
February, 1971	468.00
March, 1971	463.00
April, 1971	453.00
May, 1971	445.00
June, 1971	436.00
July, 1971	435.00
August, 1971	414.00
September, 1971	384.00
October, 1971	401.00
November (upto 12-11-1971)	400.00