

of coir products during April-September, 1973 and corresponding period of 1972 is indicated below:—

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| April-September, 1972             | 21,196 |
| tonnes valued at Rs. 6.28 crores. |        |
| April-September, 1973             | 19,151 |
| tonnes valued at Rs. 6.25 crores. |        |

The decline in the export of coir products was mainly due to labour strike which paralysed the Cochin port during the month of June. There has also been decline in the export of coir yarn to U.K. mainly because of stiff competition from the mechanised coir industry recently set up in Sri Lanka.

**Special scheme of State Bank of India, Kuttanad, Kerala regarding Financial Assistance to Farmers**

3351. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has taken up a special scheme aiming at helping farmers in Kuttanad, Kerala State and

(b) if so, the salient features and objectives of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The State Bank of India has undertaken to finance the Kuttanad Development Project, prepared by the State Government of Kerala, to be implemented through Kerala Land Development Corporation, to overcome the problems of high floods during monsoon and salinity during summer, affecting rice cultivation in the area. The project envisages construction of permanent submersible bunds of about 2000 kms of which about 370 kms involving an outlay of Rs. 375 lakhs are proposed to be constructed in the first phase during 1973-74 and 1974-75. Under the project, besides term loan to be given to the Kerala Land Development Corporation, the farmers will also be grant-

ed assistance by the Bank on the usual terms for meeting their crop loan requirements. The bank propose to open 6 Agricultural Development Branches in Kuttanad area of which two at Edathua and Changanacherry have already been opened. After the implementation of the project, production is expected to increase by 149 lakh tonnes of paddy valued at Rs 10 crores and about Rs. 60 lakhs worth of coconuts every year. The project is also expected to provide employment to about 5000 masons and 10,000 unskilled workers.

**Conveyance allowance for Engineers and Doctors**

3352 SHRI SHANKAR DEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether motor car conveyance allowances for engineers and doctors have not been revised since 1965 in spite of steep rise in the cost of petrol cars and spares, and

(b) when Government propose to revise the rates to mitigate the hardships of engineers and doctors on field duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANE' H)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of revision of rates is under examination.

**Motor car Conveyance Allowance**

3353 SHRI SHANKAR DEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the motor car conveyance allowances recommended by the Third Pay Commission in their report are purely ad hoc and without any rational basis and

(b) whether in view of the steep increase in petrol prices Government propose to revise the Third Pay Commission's recommendation in this regard?