

apron to LCN 40 at Gauhati aerodrome at an estimated cost of Rs. 80.49 lakhs. Subsequently after scrutiny of the tenders, this amount has been increased to Rs. 98.60 lakhs and final clearance for executing the work was given on 26th March, 1976. The runway is adequate in length for the type of aircraft operated by Indian Airlines.

(b) Yes, Sir. The contract was awarded to the National Building Construction Corporation (a Govt. of India Undertaking) in May, 1976. Equipment and machinery have been brought to the site and quality of the materials is being tested. Earth work has started.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. It was anticipated that the work would commence in November, 1975. It did not materialise as the scope of the work had to be reviewed and revised keeping in view safety and other aspects. The project was cleared in March 1976 and the work has commenced in May, 1976.

Export of Natural Rubber by STC

572. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which natural rubber has been exported by State Trading Corporation and the total quantity of export during the last one year;

(b) whether there is a decline in the international prices of rubber; and

(c) if so, its likely impact on India's rubber industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) STC did not export natural rubber during last year. They have contract-

ed for the export of rubber during the current year as follows:

U. K.	540	Tonnes
Japan	2,600	"
West Germany	1,275	"
Italy	200	"
Netherlands	150	"
Rumania	20	"
Total	4,785	Tonnes

Out of the above mentioned quantity 4,060 tonnes have so far been shipped and the balance is likely to be shipped during August, 1976.

(b) International prices of rubber have been erratic over the last six months. There has been a decline in the price over the last six weeks or so.

(c) It is not likely to have an impact on India's rubber industry.

Request from Automotive Tyre Industry for Inbond movement of Goods

573. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE. Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state-

(a) whether the automotive tyre industry has made a request that the facility of inbond movement of its goods should be restored; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request was considered in detail but Government were not able to agree to it, in view of the adverse effect on Central Excise revenue as well as the procedural complications involved.