

(b) Based on the demand of coal projected by various industries like power, cement, steel and other sectors, production programmes of various coal companies at the beginning of the five year plan are worked out, discussed with the Planning Commission and agreed to. Planning Commission, in turn, interacts with the State Governments and other coal consuming administrative Ministries/ Departments like power, steel etc. in order to firm up the projected coal demand.

#### Financial needs in various Sectors of Infrastructure

569. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made about the financial needs for various sectors of infrastructure;

(b) if so, the total investment required in the country in infrastructure, sector-wise;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared to mobilise resources for the infrastructural sector; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The Expert Group on the Commercialisation of infrastructure Projects, set up by the Ministry of Finance in October 1994, have made an estimate about the infrastructure investment requirements in 'The India Infrastructure Report' submitted to the Government in June 1996. Assuming that the domestic savings, specially public sector savings will grow, the Expert Group have calculated that it is quite feasible for total investment in infrastructure to increase from the current level of 5.5 percent of GDP to 7 percent by 2000-01 and 8 percent by 2005-06. In absolute terms, it implies the annual level of investment rising from the current Rs. 600 billion to about Rs. 1,100 billion by 2000-01 and Rs. 1,800 billion by 2005-06. This implies total infrastructure investment requirements of about Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 4,500 billion over the period 1996-97 to 2000-01 which would rise to about Rs. 7,500 billion in the period 2001-02 to 2005-06.

The Expert Group have also made bottom up estimate for infrastructure Sectors, which are as under:

Sector	1996-97 to 2000-01	2001-02 to 2005-06	Total (in Rs. Billions)
Power	1834	2849	4995*
Telecom	740	1175	1915
Road	320	630	950
Port	100	150	250
Urban Infrastructure	800-940	Not est.	800-940

\* Includes provision of additional investment of Rs.312 billion over 1996-97 to 2005-06 for plant renovation and generation.

(c) and (d) The India Infrastructure Report has highlighted the need for large investments in infrastructure and has called for private participation to supplement public investment. Infrastructure has been awarded very high priority in the programme for economic development. The Government has encouraged private participation in select infrastructure projects and services, while at the same time ensuring proper regulatory mechanisms in different sectors. Procedures pertaining to FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) have been substantially relaxed in order to facilitate greater flow of funds into the core sectors of the economy.

#### Import of Rubber

570. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of rubber has taken place by special import licence and advance licence during the last two years, item-wise and year-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is surplus production of Natural Rubber in the country;

(d) if so, the details of domestic production and demand;

(e) whether there is demand from farmers to ban the import of natural rubber; and

(f) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No import of rubber took place against Special Import Licence. However, some imports have taken place against Advance Licence export obligation.

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(b) Item	1996-97	1997-98 upto Feb. 98
	Qty-Value (MT)-(Rs. Lakhs)	Qty-Value (MT)-(Rs. Lakhs)
Natural rubber	18057-9829.96	25977-11489.15

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The projected production and consumption of the Natural Rubber during the year 1997-98 is 5.84 lakhs MTs and 5.74 lakhs MTs respectively.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The import of rubber, however, is already in the Negative List of Exim policy and is permitted only against Advance Licence/Special Import Licence against export obligation.