

is not ascertained every year. However, the Government of India have fixed/revised Benchmark Price for Natural Rubber based on cost of production in the following years:

| Year | Benchmark Price RSS-IV Grade (Rs./100 kg.) |
|----------------|---|
| February 1986 | 1650 |
| May 1987 | 1700 |
| September 1988 | 1780 |
| January 1991 | 2145 |
| January 1993 | 2345 |
| February 1994 | 2490 |

(d) and (e) Based on the Report of the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance, the process of revising the Benchmark Price for Natural Rubber is underway.

[Translation]

Afforestation Programme by SECL

5427. SHRI LARANG SAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where the afforestation work has been undertaken by the SECL and the names of undertakings engaged in this work;

(b) the latest position of the work done so far;

(c) whether the said afforestation work has been done in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down in the contract; and

(d) if so, the basis on which the payment is made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Afforestation work is undertaken on external/internal overburden dumps, vacant lands, avenues in and around colonies/infrastructure by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL). The agency executing this job, since 1990, is Madhya Pradesh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam Limited (M.P.R.V.V.N), a Government of Madhya Pradesh undertaking.

(b) Since its incorporation, SECL has planted 183.5 lakh saplings.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Final payment is made on the basis of joint inspection by officials of SECL and M.P.R.V.V.N. and survival rate of 90% at the end of the third year. If survival is less than 90%, then pro-rata deductions are made.

[English]

Funds for Spinning Mills by Financial Institutions

5428. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought financial assistance from IFCI, ICICI, IDBI and other financial institutions for setting up of new grass root spinning mills in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the spinning mills for which assistance has been sought; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that Government of Maharashtra has not sought any financial assistance from Financial Institutions (FIs) for setting up new grass root spinning mills directly. However, both IDBI and Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., (IFCI) have received applications/ inquiries from co-operative spinning mills which proposed to have equity assistance from Government of Maharashtra. In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the unit-wise details cannot be divulged.

(c) IDBI has reported that in view of the defaults committed by a large number of co-operative spinning mills to FIs, it was decided by the FIs that financing of new co-operative spinning mills would be considered only after the dues in respect of existing co-operative spinning mills are cleared either by the units themselves or by the State Government who have guaranteed the loans.

OECF Assistance for Irrigation Projects of Karnataka

5429. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance from OECF, Japan for several irrigation projects:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government forwarded the requests to OECF;

(d) the time by which the aid from OECF is likely to be obtained; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Rounding off Paise to the Nearest Rupee

5430. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: