

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which Government have accepted its recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that it has not asked IDBI to prepare any general/comprehensive techno-economic study for rehabilitation of sick companies. However, in individual cases before the BIFR, as per the sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, it may ask any operating agency, including IDBI, to prepare a rehabilitation scheme for that company.

**Diversion of Marginal Land under Coffee Cultivation to Rubber Plantation**

8428. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to divert marginal land at present under coffee cultivation to be brought under rubber plantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent, it will reduce the import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (c): On account of global surplus production, stagnant domestic consumption and declining international prices, the Working Group on Plantation Crops set up by the Planning Commission had suggested stoppage of further expansion of coffee cultivation and diversion of marginal areas under coffee to rubber or tea as may be appropriate.

Government have accordingly set up a Committee comprising of Chairman of Tea, Coffee and Rubber Boards to examine in depth the feasibility and desirability of the idea. Exploratory survey have already begun for conversion of marginal areas under coffee to other plantation crops.

As the surveys are in the initial stage, it is not possible to indicate the exact extent to which such diversions can reduce the rubber import bill.

**Fire Protection System in LIC Premises**

8429. SHRIM. V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether buildings and premises of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have adequate fire fighting arrangements including fire protection doors and windows to avoid fire accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) LIC, before constructing their buildings all over the country, obtains sanction/ approval of all local authorities including fire authorities. As such, LIC buildings in general are adequately equipped to take care of fire hazards. All LIC buildings are provided with fire protection measures as required by the local fire authorities. For old buildings, improvements suggested by fire authorities are implemented in accordance with fire safety rules.

(c) Does not arise.