

dies, etc. are concerned, these are applicable to Kanya Kumari also. Whatever assistance is given, will certainly be given to Kanyakumari also. I would also like to mention that 77 of the total production of rubber is by 3,65,000 farmers with small holdings. So, that consideration we are taking into account.

SHRI N. DENNIS: The rubber production has improved during the past 25 years, and the per-unit production has also improved, but the per-unit production of rubber in our country is less than that of Malaysia and Sri Lanka. The per-unit cost of production is also higher than in these countries. To achieve self-sufficiency, may I know from the hon. Minister whether rubber production would be extended to non-traditional areas and also whether subsidies and other encouragements would be given to the rubber growers, so that self-sufficiency is achieved? May I know the steps taken by the Government to achieve self-sufficiency in rubber in the near future?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: The production in the current year is 291,00 tonnes, which is a record increase over the previous year. We have a gap just now, and we are importing rubber; but I think that by the end of the century, we should be able to meet this gap. The immediate problem is that there is not enough land available to bring under rubber cultivation; and here, as far as rubber is concerned, every possible effort will be made to get additional areas under cultivation, wherever land is available. This is why we have gone into the non-traditional areas also. If we have additional land available in Tamil Nadu which we can bring under cultivation, we will certainly do it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Restructuring of Banking Sector

84. SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the process of rapid expansion in the banking sector during the last few years there has been unhealthy competition between banks due to their multiplicity and overlapping areas of operations: and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government for restructuring and consolidation of the banking sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). It may not be correct to state that there is any widespread unhealthy competition among banks. No doubt, the commercial banks have been shown phenomenal expansion, specially since the nationalisation of major banks in 1969, in terms of branch expansion, deposit mobilisation and credit deployment. Steps are initiated, from time to time, by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India to improve operational efficiency in banks and consolidate gains of the banking system. There is no proposal, at present, for restructuring of the banking system.

Telecast of Children's Films

*86. **PROF. P.J.KURIEN:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of good children's films in the country;

(b) the number of films both in Hindi and regional languages shown on T.V. during the last one year and the number of children's films out of them; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to screen more children's films both in Hindi and regional languages?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). The replies to ques-