

(IDBI) that defaults in the payment of interest have been committed by certain assisted units including those belonging to big houses due to variety of reasons. The arrears position is reviewed continuously by IDBI on a case to case basis and appropriate follow-up measures are initiated for recovery. Details in regard to individual companies can not, however, be disclosed in view of the provisions of the obligation as to fidelity and secrecy as contained in the Section 29 of the IDBI Act, 1964.

Aluminium and Alumina Export

3881. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the quantum and value of aluminium/alumina exported during the last three years, public/private sector company-wise; and

(b) the estimated quantum of total energy/power cost incurred on the production of the said exported quantity of aluminium/alumina?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Exports of alumina and aluminium metal by the primary producers of aluminium in public and private sector during the last three years is as under:

		(Qty. in '000 t/value Rs. Cr.)					
		1987-88		1988-89		1989-90	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
PUBLIC SECTOR							
<i>National Aluminium Co. Ltd.</i>							
Alumina		77	16	384	181	449	324
Aluminium Metal		Nil	Nil	15	54	27	85
PRIVATE SECTOR							
<i>Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.</i>							
Alumina		74	15	77	27	61	60
<i>Madras Aluminium Co. Ltd.</i>							
Alumina		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	9	7
Aluminium Metal		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) The energy/power cost for production of alumina and aluminium metal depends on the power consumption and also on the cost of generation of captive power and the tariff charged by various State Electricity Boards. On an average such cost varies between 35% to 50% of the cost of production of Aluminium whether sold indigenously or exported.

Cess on Rubber

3882. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber cultivators are in great difficulty due to steep fall in price of Rubber from Rs. 26 per kilo last year this time, to about Rs. 18/-;

(b) the steps Government propose to take for saving rubber cultivators;

(c) whether Government propose to raise the rubber cess from fifty paise to two rupees;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what would be its effect on the rubber industry; and

(e) whether there was any recommendation from Rubber Board for enhancing Rubber Cess, if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) The price of RMA IV grade of natural rubber which was about Rs. 26 per kg. in July, 1989 and around Rs. 23 per kg. in July, 1990 is at present Rs. 20.25 per kg. which can be considered as remunerative

(b) The Government is taking all possible steps to safeguard the interests of the growers, including regular updation of the bench mark price for rubber.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The present ceiling on rubber cess is proposed to be increased from fifty paise per kg. to Rs. 2 per kg. though immediately the cess may not be fixed at Rs. 2 per kg. The proposed revision of cess is to generate adequate funds for implementing various development schemes for the rubber plantation industry, with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in rubber production at the earliest. The Rubber Board had also recommended enhancement of the rubber cess way back in 1985.

Problems of SCs/STs in Banks

3883. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting under his Chairmanship was held on 16 June, 1990 with the All India SC & ST Bank Employees Confederation to

discuss the problems of SC/ST working in Public Sector Banks, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to redress the problems of SC/ST bank employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Consumption of Petrol

3884. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as one of the measures to cut down non-plan expenditure, his Ministry has imposed any limit for consumption of petrol for each Staff Car used by the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for official purposes monthly;

(b) if so, what and how it is going to be strictly enforced and its evasion checked;

(c) whether he is aware that bureaucrats working in the ministries which run Public Sector Enterprises have begun using vehicles belonging to the PSUs for which no limit has been prescribed; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d) Instructions have been issued recently to all Central Government Departments that they should reduce their overall consumption of petrol/diesel by 20% over the consumption in 1989-90. Departments have also been instructed to closely monitor the consumption of petrol/diesel in order to ensure compliance of the Government's directive in accordance with the format prescribed