

National Development Council in 1980. Since then the National Development Council has not suggested any modification to the formula.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : The Hon. Minister has replied that the National Development Council has not suggested any modification to the Gadgil Formula. But it appears from the *Indian Express* of 4th November, 1985, that, while inaugurating the high level bridge over the Jamuna in Haryana, the Hon. Finance Minister has said that the Government of India is actively considering to change its policy of extending financial assistance to States on the basis of performances and rate of economic growth. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, under the modified Gadgil Formula, how much assistance will be given to the States.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : About the assistance to be given to the States, in the Seventh Plan it is going to be a total of Rs. 27,384 crores while in the Sixth Plan it was only Rs. 16,099 crores.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : I would like to know whether Government will allow overdraft to the States as in previous years. If so, whether there is a limit or not.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : No Sir, strictly not.

[*Translation*]

Scheme for Development of Ayodhya

*176. **SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI :** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to prepare an elaborate programme for the development of tourism and culture of all the major religious places in the country;

(b) whether Government are considering any scheme for the development of Ayodhya in this connection;

(c) whether the State Government had submitted a scheme for the development of Ayodhya in 1984; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government has identified a number of tourist centres including Ayodhya for phased development through the combined resources of the Central, State and the private sector.

(b) to (d). The State Government had submitted a proposal for beautification and display gardening of Ayodhya Ghats at an estimated cost of Rs. 104 lakhs. The scheme could not be accepted as beautification and display gardening etc. *per-se* do not fall within the purview of the Department of Tourism activities. The State Government has been requested to recast the proposal according to the norms of Department of Tourism.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Sir, my question arises out of the reply given by the Hon. Minister. Ayodhya has been identified as a tourist centre and efforts for its development will be made. I think the department of Tourism confines itself to metropolitan cities only. Has any policy decision to deviate from the established criteria been taken recently under which small places, whether they are religious centres or have some other importance will also be given priority ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : In reply to his suggestion that other places should also be taken, I want to tell the young Hon. Member that more attention is paid to big centres because they attract more tourists. I agree with him that attention should also be paid to such small cities where influx of tourists is comparatively more. 441 such centres have been identified in the entire Country. Priority will be given to those centres where influx of tourists is more and there will be no question of big or small town. With this criteria in view, places will be identified and assistance will be provided to develop them depending upon the availability of resources.

MR. SPEAKER : I also have a suggestion.

I have seen Vrindavan, Mathura. No adequate transport facilities are available to reach there. They will look after the temples themselves, but the Government should see that drinking water and transport facilities are provided because these are the places which help national integration. A large number of tourists from South come to see these places. I have also written to you about this; you please look into this carefully.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I shall follow up your suggestion with the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Not follow up alone.

[English]

It has got to be implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : It will be so kind of you if you could include Pushkar also.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : In this connection, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether Central Government propose to take initiative to open a museum of its own, besides that of the State Government, to preserve a large number of hand-written authentic 'Ramayan' of ancient times written in different languages which are now gradually becoming extinct and also to preserve cultural heritage ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : The second supplementary asked by the Hon. Member does not concern my Ministry. For this, I think, he will have to take it up with the Ministry of Culture or with some other Ministry. Although, personally speaking, his is a very good suggestion.

SHRI MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, like Canada, which is famous for its beauty, there are numerous tales of chivalry about Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu and Sikar districts. Besides, there are many other objects, of beauty, forts, places there. Therefore, I would like to know whether Sikar and Jhunjhunu would also be included in it or not ?

MR. SPEAKER : He is talking about preservation of ancient objects of art.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Rajasthan is very beautiful and interesting. There are many places in the State which can be developed for tourism, but as I said in the beginning, the suggestion of the Hon. Member will certainly be considered when the State Government come out with any such proposal.

One thing more I want to say. There is not the question of only the follow up action with regard to your suggestion; I am trying to explain further. You have said rightly; there is much scope for paying attention to many things like transport, way-side facilities, environment and roads around a number of religious places. State Government can be told to take measures in this direction. I shall try to approach them I shall also try at my level if it comes in the ambit of our policy.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES : The Shankhumugam beach opposite the Trivandrum Airport is one of the most beautiful beach centres in the country and the coastal belt from Shankhumugam to Kovalam, a stretch of roughly 12 km in also one of the most beautiful parts of the country and there was a proposal to develop this stretch as a marine drive. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether this will be taken up in the central sector and completed in the Seventh Plan ?

MR. SPEAKER : All roads lead to Kovalam.

[Translation]

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : As I have said earlier, we shall consider the suggestions and schemes sent by the State Governments and if Hon. Members also write, we shall ask the State Government to consider it. After that, we shall consider allocation of funds for these projects depending upon the availability of finances.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is all now.

Next Question—Shrimati Bibha Ghosh Goswami,...

Then, Shri Kali Prasad Pandey.

Then, Shri Amarsinh Rathawa...

Prof. K. V. Thomas.

Import of Natural Rubber

*179. PROF. K. V. THOMAS :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have authorised immediate import of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the quantity of natural rubber likely to be imported this year;

(c) whether it will have any effect on the growers of rubber and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the production of national rubber in the country to save foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Likely imports of natural rubber in 1985-86 may be around 29,000 tonnes. Decisions on quantum, timing and release price of imported rubber take into account the need to maintain domestic prices at a steady level which is remunerative to the growers.

(d) The Rubber Board is providing subsidies, extension advisory support rain-gardening materials, high yielding planting materials etc. for growers and is also undertaking research on various aspects of rubber cultivation, with a view to increasing rubber production in the country.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : In the statement laid on the Table of the House the Hon. Minister has said that 29,000 tonnes of natural rubber may be imported in the year 1985-86. Already the import of cocount oil in the form of industrial oil and under

OGL has already broken the backbone of the coconut cultivators in Kerala. Similarly, the decision to import natural rubber will be a great blow to the rubber-growers of Kerala. According to the information received the internal output of natural rubber during this year and next year will be sufficient for our internal use. If this information is correct, will this decision of the Government of India be reconsidered and, if you must import rubber, then will the imported rubber be put as a buffer stock ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : There is definitely a shortage of rubber and there is a gap of 30,000 metric tonnes between the production and actual requirement. But I certainly agree with the Hon. Member that this imported rubber should be released when the indigenous rubber is not available or prices shoot up to more than Rs. 16,500/- per tonne.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : In the last session during the discussion on the natural calamities, an assurance has been given on the floor of the House that plantation, especially, the rubber plantation in Kerala which has suffered a lot during the havoc, rain and landslides will be helped by the Rubber Board and other Commodity Boards. But now we find that assurance has not been kept. Will the Hon. Minister kindly look into it ?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : As far as the assurance is concerned, a number of things have been done and if I read them, I will take the time of the House. So I can pass it on to the Hon. Member.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I want to know whether the Government has received any memorandum from the tyre manufacturers association in this country regarding import of rubber and if so, how much quantity of rubber—they have demanded to be imported?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, I have already mentioned that the difference between production and requirement is about 29,000 tonnes.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, I wanted to know whether any memorandum has been received by the Government from the tyre manufacturers.