

inconvenience to the public. There is minimal inconvenience to the staff as the branch offices in the two buildings are self contained units with respective Group Officers functioning in each building.

- (d) Action has been taken to construct an additional block in the new building premises to take care of additional requirement of space and accommodate the sections now functioning in the Branch Offices. Tenders for the construction of the building have been called for by the C. P. W. D. authorities.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : About 20 years ago, there was only one AG in Karnataka. Now we have got three AGs in Karnataka. The offices are located in five buildings. Government says that there is no inconvenience to anybody. It is my constituency and I know it personally that there has been a lot of inconvenience not only to the public but also to the officers. And one cannot have effective control from one place. Do you not think that it is advisable to have all the staff under one roof just like the office of the Board of Revenue? When shall all these offices be located at in one building or under one roof?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Presently AG has one main building, a new building with two blocks A and B and two branches are at Sirur Park Road and at Vyalikaval where the Audit Department is sitting. But we want to have a building close-by. Therefore, we are building a C block near the main building and by 1989-90 it will be completed. The contract has already been given. When it is completed, we will vacate private premises which are on hire. Then the entire staff will be within a common complex.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Even then the workload is increasing day by day and a time will come when we will have many more AGs. I would suggest that you should contact the Government of Karnataka and secure a suitable site; otherwise, you will have to go 10 to 15 kms from the centrally located place. It is worthwhile that you negotiate with the Government of Karnataka and secure a suitable centrally located site. Even with the other two buildings, I know that the space will not be suffice because at the present moment, it is all congested. In

one room where three persons can sit, 6 or 7 persons are sitting. So it is absolutely necessary that we should have a more spacious building for AG's office in Karnataka.

I would ask the Minister whether he will contact the Government of Karnataka and try to secure a site so that they can all be under one roof.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Sir, we have already surveyed our requirements and we want a space approximately 950 sq. metres, for which the 'C' Block, as I stated, is being constructed in the new building. Block 'A' and 'B' are already there. Both the main building and the new building are close to each other and, therefore, it will be within one area. So, we have assessed our requirement and on that basis we are constructing the new building. Therefore, presently there is no need because our requirement would be totally met by this new building which is under construction.

MR. SPEAKER : Iyer ji is having a futuristic view. He is thinking ahead.

Honey Production

*984. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a study conducted at the Rubber Research Institute of India, rubber honey has bright potential in the country, as reported in the 'Times of India', dated 31 March 1988;

(b) if so, the salient features of the study made and the follow-up action taken thereon;

(c) whether any targets for production of honey have been fixed; and

(d) if so, the incentives given or proposed to be given by the Khadi & Village Industry Commission to boost the produc-

tion of honey to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the study made are as under:—

(i) 40% of Indian Honey is produced from rubber plantations.

(ii) Approximately 15 hives can be maintained per hectare of rubber plantation.

(iii) In a normal year 10 kgs. of honey can be obtained from 1 hive.

(iv) About 30 hives can be managed by a bee keeper. This would ensure a part time employment to 150,000 people for the entire area under rubber..

The Rubber Board has decided to offer financial subsidy to small growers owning 5 hectares and below for taking up bee-keeping in their holdings.

(c) and (d) No targets for production of honey have been fixed by this Ministry. The Khadi & Village Industries Commission provides financial assistance for the development of Bee-keeping industry through State Khadi & Village Industries Boards, registered institutions and bee-keepers co-operators.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister and his Ministry that the Rubber Board has decided to offer financial subsidy to small growers owning five hectares of land under rubber production. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the amount prescribed for such subsidy and what is the number of beneficiaries in the last two years? Side by side, may I know whether that subsidy is given to the farmers who extend the area or the quantity of production of more honey from the beehives ?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, so far as the honey which is collected from the rubber plantations is concerned, as the hon. Member must be aware, it is not the major function of the Rubber Board. It so happens that from January to March,

since there are no flowers here and there, the bees often try to get the honey from the rubber plantation areas in a particular season. The hives that they maintain are one hive for fifteen acres. In those hives they bring the honey and deposit it. We do not maintain individual catalogue for individual growers or farmers. We do offer subsidy from time to time through the programme of the Rubber Board. In total we arrange in a year roughly about Rs. five lakhs as subsidy from the Centre.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, my second supplementary would be whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Agriculture has recommended the increasing of honey production in our country by 60,000 tonnes by the turn of the century, as against the present about 7,000 tonnes. So, may I know what are

programmes before the hon. Minister to extend the area so that the honey production can be increased? Side by side, may I know whether our honey production is only average and is much below the production in countries like Canada? In Canada, they are producing 53.3 kgs. from each bee hive per year, but our production from each bee-hive per year is only seven kgs. So, may I know what is the programme before the hon. Minister to increase the production?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, incidentally I may inform the hon. House and to you that the question came in a peculiar manner to the Ministry of Commerce, because honey and honey production is not at all the subject of the Ministry of Commerce. It so happens that in our rubber plantation programme...
(Interruptions)

Let me answer, Sir. In the rubber production programme, for the honey that we gather from the rubber plantation area, sometimes with the help of the KVIC support, sometimes with the help of the local growers, we give them some subsidy. Forty per cent of the honey of the country is really collected from the rubber plantation areas.

Now, it is a fact that the National Commission on Agriculture did recommend to increase production of this product. This matter should be referred to the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a matter for Ministry of Agriculture to decide the strategy and the plan for the same. If he gives us some suggestions, we will certainly be happy to coordinate with the Department concerned.

SHRI D. N. REDDY : Sir, honey being one of the richest items of food, is the hon. Minister aware that both production has gone down very much in the last two years and the price has gone up almost double. So, will you please consider how to improve the production of honey by the Khadi Gramodyog organisation which is not at all taking any interest in improving the production of honey. As far as I know, it applies to almost

every State except probably Himachal Pradesh. May I request the Government though it does not come under your portfolio, to see that the Gramodyog movement is toned up and honey production is very much increased so that it is within the competence of the middle-class people to purchase? Being the rich food, I would like to know whether the Government will take special care to increase the production of honey.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, so far as Khadi Gramodyog is concerned, it does not come under the administration of the Commerce Ministry. It is under the Ministry of Industry. The matter will be addressed to them. So far as honey is concerned, it is collected from the rubber plantation areas and as and when we expand rubber plantation programme, obviously honey production will be increased and because this subject comes under another Ministry that is why we would like to coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture for this purpose.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Rubber honey should also be provided here.

[English]

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, rubber honey, I am told, is not that tasty because it is coming from only one flower and the honey that is collected from many other flowers is more tasty.

SHRI D. N. REDDY : I am talking of Gramodyog movement. They are not taking interest even in khadi, apart from honey. You should tone up the administration.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : Khadi is not under my Ministry.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, rubber honey is not that much good. If rubber honey is not that much good, then coffee and other plantation items are there and there is possibility of generating honey. The hon. Minister has said that it does not come under his Ministry. But Sir, it is time for the Commerce Ministry

to think over it and see that plantation areas are increased, some efforts are made to produce more honey and also for possible export see whether the quantity will be available. I would like to know whether Government will take some measures in the plantation areas especially in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu where coffee and such other plantations are grown, where flowers in a particular season are available and improve the production of honey as also see the possibility of export-oriented production of honey in these areas.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, I will certainly write to the concerned State Governments to provide the possibility of infrastructural support and explore the possibility of increasing the production in future in the interest of the country.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Digvijaya Singhji, you may also ask. Please talk of environment to add some sweetness to the discussion.

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : Sir, there is a breed of the species which originate from Africa. There is the breed from Africa which is a very aggressive breed, which is spread all over the world and they inter-breed with the local breed and deteriorate the quality of production of honey all over the world. Therefore, is the Minister aware of this and any precaution is taken against it?

MR. SPEAKER : We are against any aggression.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, I am aware of the aggressive breed. But I always think that this matter should be checked by every section of the society and specially by the Minister of Agriculture also. The details may kindly be examined by the Ministry of Agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER : No aggression please.

(Interruptions) - -

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : The aggressive breed on that side, Sir,

Violation of Stock Exchange Listing Regulations

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*985. SHRI SRIHARI RAO :

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in the "Economic Times" dated 11 April, 1988 captioned "COS delay listing for promoters' booty" wherein it has been stated that some concerns have resorted to violating stock exchange listing regulations allegedly in order to manipulate prices at the cost of investing public;

(b) whether according to the provision of the Companies Act, 1956 this entails declaration of the prospectus of these companies as void;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FAL- EIRO) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (d) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the Economic Times dated 11.4.1988 referred to in Part (a) of the Question. According to the provisions of Section 73 of the Companies Act, 1956, where a Prospectus states that an application has been made for permission for the shares or debentures offered thereby to be dealt in one or more Stock Exchanges