

**Promotion of Cooperative Tea Farming.**

\*559. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) What is the percentage of tea plantation in the North-Eastern and Nilgiris in the cooperative sector as at present; and

(b) What steps are contemplated and are being taken to promote cooperative tea farming in different parts of the country and to offer an effective competition to big business and multinationals in the Tea Industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) The percentage of tea plantations in the co-operative sector in the North Eastern region and in the Nilgiris is negligible. There are only four estates in the North Eastern region which are owned by co-operatives. There are no such estates in the Nilgiris. However, there are 11 industrial co-operative tea factories in the Nilgiris, and their membership includes small tea growers.

(b) In order to further the interests of co-operatives and to lessen the burden of fiscal levy on small growers, the Government have allowed a concessional rate of excise duty for the co-operative sector. The Tea Board also provides financial assistance for the setting up of new co-operative tea factories. There is also a proposal to set up tea plantations in the co-operative sector in Tamil Nadu and to provide employment to hill tribes, bonded labour and Harijans. The Central Government had instituted an Expert Committee on Small Growers to promote their interests which submitted its report.

**रबड़ का आयात**

562. श्री भोतीभाई धार० चौधरी :

श्रीमती किष्कीरी सिन्हा :

क्या वारिण्ड्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत वर्ष रबड़ का आयात किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कुल कितनी मात्रा में रबड़ का आयात किया गया;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि रबड़ के इस आयात के परिणामस्वरूप देश के रबड़ उद्योग पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस उद्योग को संकट से बचाने के लिये की गई कार्यवाही का न्यौरा क्या है ?

वारिण्ड्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री पी०ए० संगमा) :

(क) जी हां ।

(ख) 1982-83 के दौरान राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा 30,050 मे० टन प्राकृतिक रबड़ की कुल मात्रा का आयात किया गया ।

(ग) जी नहीं । आयातों का देश में रबड़ बागान उद्योग पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है क्योंकि उनकी मात्रा देश में प्राकृतिक रबड़ के मांग-सप्लाई अन्तर को पूरा करने तक सीमित थी ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

**Indian's International Trading.**

\*565. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's International trading has been facing difficulties; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.