

**Shri Punnose (Alleppey):** The hon. Minister said that it is a matter of demand and supply. It is not correct because the export of rubber is banned and so, the free play of demand is not allowed. The Dunlop Co., and the Firestone Co., have almost a monopoly of the purchase of rubber.

Secondly, the producer of rubber in Travancore-Cochin, which gives 80 per cent of the total production in India, is almost a small producer: two lbs., three lbs. a day. If the hon. Minister goes there, he can see every evening these people going with two lbs. of rubber for their rations. It is that which is being stopped.

The hon. Minister says it is not a very serious matter. I have had occasion to talk to him this morning. I am very sorry he does not appreciate the situation. There is also growing unemployment in the estates. I beg to submit I consider this a very serious matter, and Government has to proceed immediately to see that misery is relieved.

**Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru):** Will the Government allow export?

**Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam):** May I know whether, if this company was closing for annual stock-taking, it was so closed in previous years?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** My information in that regard is not as good as the hon. Member's.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang):** If there is such a surplus of rubber, may I know why the Government does not take a decision to stop imports instead of requesting the firms that they should agree to reduce their imports?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There seem to be a number of suggestions to be made and a lot of other information to be elicited. There is also a short notice question which I have sent to the hon. Minister. It is in the course of transmission. I do not think I should spend the time of the House on this adjournment motion.

**Hon. Members:** When can we expect a reply?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Before we disperse, I think.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### HOURS OF SITTING

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have to make an announcement so far as the timings of the House are concerned. The House will sit on the 18th from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 2-30 P.M. to 6 P.M. On Friday and Saturday, there are no Questions and so the Question-hour is not there. Therefore, we may sit from 10-45 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2-30 P.M. to 5 P.M. instead, of from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. as we have been doing for want of time. This may also be included in the Bulletins.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Reports:

(i) Report of the *Ad hoc* Committee in connection with the investigations of the River Valley Projects [Placed in Library. See No. IV. M.4 (24)],

(ii) Report of the Advisory Committee on Hirakud Dam Project, June 1948, [Placed in Library. See No. IV. M.4 (11)],

(iii) Report of the Advisory Committee on the Kosi Project 1952 [Placed in Library. See No. IV.M.4 (27)], and

(iv) Report of the Advisory Committee on Hirakud Dam Project, March, 1952 [Placed in Library. See No. IV. M.4 (11)].

### STATEMENT RE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** Sir, with your permission, I wish to make a statement on the Commonwealth Economic Conference which I recently attended in London on behalf of the Government of India. The purpose of this Conference was to hold consultations between the Commonwealth countries as to the economic policies that should be adopted by the sterling area countries for strengthening their balance of payments and as to the action that could be taken towards the expansion of the world production and trade. The conclusions of the Conference were published in a Press Communique in London on the 11th December 1952. I am laying copies of this Communique on the Table of the House for the information of the hon. Members. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 7].