

taken of such cases. There is no question of persecution.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question. I find that Members are absent in respect of these questions. We go to Question No. 231. Mr. Chandrappan, after all, it has come to you.

Downward Trend of Rubber Price

*231. **SHRI CHANDRAPPAN :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether rubber price has again shown a downward trend in the market and it is likely to go down further with the beginning of the tapping season ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the fall in price ; and

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation has a plan for large scale purchase of rubber from the planters at the minimum price fixed by Government last year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). The rubber price has shown downward trend due to low off-take by tyre and non-tyre manufacturers as a result of industrial disputes in some of the manufacturing units.

(c) The State Trading Corporation has already increased purchase of raw rubber from about 1200 tonnes to about 1700 per month.

SHRI CHANDRAPPAN : The hon. Minister stated that the STC has decided to purchase a few more tonnes of Rubber than what it used to purchase before. Is this the big way in which Government would like to help the rubber growers in Kerala ? I doubt it very much. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government would instruct the STC to buy the entire rubber produced in India ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : As already stated, certain factories are already closed down due to various reasons. It may be

difficult for the STC to buy the big stockpile of rubber. We are doing the best and making the best effort to stock as much as possible.

SHRI CHANDRAPPAN : I would like to know whether the present situation in the prices of rubber is only due to the fact that certain factories are closed down. I think it is also due to the fact that Government is allowing indiscriminate import of synthetic rubber. I want to know whether Government would take measures not to allow indiscriminate import of synthetic rubber and thus to help the indigenous production of rubber.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Synthetic rubber that is now being allowed to come in is of some special chemical nature and will never replace the raw rubber produced in India.

SHRI VARKEY GEORGE : There is a large stock of rubber in the country. Will Government explore the possibilities of exporting it ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : There is a big variation between the prevailing price in India and the international price. Still, we may explore the possibilities of exporting rubber.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Question Hour is over.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Kindly permit me to put one question. Every time your car breaks down, you pay very heavily for your tyres, but the grower gets less money.....

MR. SPEAKER : I have already declared that the Question Hour is over. We are only 3 short of the full list of questions today. Still, there are many hon. Members who have been left out. In spite of this rush, we have been able to do only 11 questions today and some hon. Members have felt unhappy that I did not allow them to ask supplementary questions. I am going to be strict again tomorrow. Let us see what progress we make tomorrow. I have been quite strict today, but in spite of it, we have

not been able to cover more than 11 questions.....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We have covered about 20.

MR. SPEAKER : But some hon. Members' questions did not come up. Later on, they approach me and say that their names had not come up. So many Members have been left out. Let us see what progress we make tomorrow.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

शेख अब्दुल्ला की गतिविधियों पर प्रतिबन्ध

*214 श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा :
श्री मोहन स्वरूप :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या शेख अब्दुल्ला देश के केवल कुछ भागों में ही घूम फिर सकते हैं या उन्हें देश के किसी भी भाग में जाने की स्वतन्त्रता है ; और

(ख) इस समय केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा शेख अब्दुल्ला को क्या सुविधाएं दी जा रही हैं ?

प्रधान मंत्री, परमाणु ऊर्जा मंत्री, गृह मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री : (श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी) : (क) जम्मू व कश्मीर सरकार ने अपने लोक सुरक्षा अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत जम्मू व कश्मीर राज्य में शेख अब्दुल्ला के प्रवेश पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाते हुए आदेश जारी किए हैं। देश के इस भाग के अलावा किसी अन्य भाग में आने जाने के लिए उन पर कोई प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है।

(ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने शेख अब्दुल्ला को नई दिल्ली में एक सरकारी मकान आवंटित किया है। उनसे मकान तथा फर्नीचर का किराया वसूल किया जा रहा है।

Impediments in Rupee Trade with Yugoslavia

*216. **SHRI P. K. DEO :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a serious difficulties have arisen in regard to the future of the rupee trade with Yugoslavia ;

(b) if so, the various impediments coming in the way of the continuation of this agreement ; and

(c) whether any initiative has been or is being taken by India to solve this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The Yugoslav proposal to discontinue the current Rupee payment arrangement is presently under negotiations between the two Governments.

Demand for Reconstitution of Press Council

*218. **SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM :
SHRI RAMAVAIAR SHASTRI :**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fifth Annual Conference of the Indian Working Journalists' Association held recently at Gandhinagar has demanded abolition of the present Press Council and Constitution of a more representative body in its place ; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although there is no immediate proposal to reconstitute the Press Council which was formed recently in accordance with the amended provisions of the Press Council Act, Government have under study all the recommendations made by the Annual Conference of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists.