

In addition to the Central assistance for West Bengal's Fourth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to provide Central grant upto Rs. 8 crores outside the plan during the Fourth Plan period for Bustec Improvement schemes in the Calcutta Metropolitan Region.

All India Radio Station at Quilon

*687 SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to set up a Radio Station at Quilon during the Fourth Plan period ;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for this scheme ; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The area which the station in Quilon could serve will be covered by the high power transmitter in Alleppey which will be commissioned shortly.

Proposal to Develop Regional Co-operation in Asia

*688. SHRI H. M. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Indian goods the trade in respect of which has been affected with the formation of groups like R.C.D., A.S.E.A.N. and S.E.A.M.I.C. and support to these groups from certain developed countries and some international organisations ;

(b) whether Government propose to organise and develop regional co-operation in Asia on that basis ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction and the results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House,

Statement

The RCD, ASEAM, and SEAMIC which are sub-regional groups, were established primarily to promote economic development, social progress and cultural development among the member countries through mutual cooperation. While these sub-regional groupings are continuing to discuss measures for trade liberalization and expansion among their respective members, no concrete scheme in this field has been evolved as yet. Indian exports to countries belonging to these sub-regional groupings have continued to increase. The Government of India have maintained at various ECAFE meetings that sub-regional groupings should not be insular or "inward looking" in character and that the ultimate aim should be to develop regional co-operation on as broad a basis as possible in accordance with the guidelines set by the Council of Ministers first at their meeting in December 1968 at Bangkok, and subsequently in December 1970 at Kabul. The Resolution on the Strategy for integrated Development of Regional Cooperation in Asia adopted by the Asian Ministers in December 1968 provides a broad framework for the promotion of regional cooperation in Asia to cover all the countries in the ECAFE region. The Government of India continue to play an important role in the forum of ECAFE in implementing the strategy for development of regional economic co-operation.

Export of Rubber

*689. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government intend to take immediate steps for the promotion of export of Rubber ; and

(b) whether any other method is contemplated in view of the sharp fall in Rubber prices, to provide fair price to the Rubber growers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Possibilities of exporting rubber is being explored.

(b) The State Trading Corporation propose to increase their purchases of raw rubber and this is expected to provide fair prices to the rubber growers.