

**SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK:**  
We all realise the difficulties that the passengers are facing because of the congestion. That is because of the rapid growth in the traffic. When we constructed the airports, they were just to meet the small aircrafts. But now that we have introduced the bigger aircrafts, these problems are there. Government is not unaware of these problems. We are taking all steps to see that this problem of congestion is removed. As the hon. Member knows, I have already told the House, we are constructing a separate International block or complex in Bombay airport. So also, we propose to construct a similar block in Delhi. In other major airports also, we are making efforts to separate the international block and the domestic block and ease the condition and make necessary improvements to remove all these inconveniences.

**Monopoly purchase of Rubber**

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\*644. SHRI A. R. BADRI  
NARAYAN:

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken a final decision to resort to monopoly purchases of rubber throughout the country;

(b) if so, how much has been so far purchased;

(c) what are the facilities and incentives being provided to growers to enable the country to achieve self sufficiency in rubber;

(d) if so, the details of incentives that will be provided during the current year and also in the Sixth Five Year plan; and

(e) what is the provision of assistance made in the Budget for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE,

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b). Measures to give adequate incentives to the rubber growers, which would, at the same time, take care of the interests of the rubber consuming industry, are under the consideration of the Central Government, in consultation with the State Government, concerned. A scheme similar to the monopoly purchase of cotton is one of the suggestions.

(c) and (d). Rubber Board is implementing various schemes in order to augment the production of natural rubber in the country both from the long term and short term point of view. Schemes for increasing production on long term basis consist of those for encouraging replanting of low yielding uneconomic rubber plantations, for providing assistance and incentive for expansion of rubber cultivation in traditional as well as non-traditional areas and for multiplication and distribution of high yielding planting materials at cost price or concessional rates. The Rubber Research Institute of India set up under the Rubber Board is carrying out comprehensive research for evolution of new clones with high yield and other desirable characters, for improving technique, for efficient exploitation of the crop of rubber trees, for improving Agronomic practices in plantations, for control of disease and pests affecting the tree and for improving processing of raw rubber. The Board is also rendering through its technical staff free advisory and extension service to rubber growers with a view to modernise the plantations. The schemes, implemented for increasing production on immediate short term basis consist of those for granting cash subsidies to weaker sections of the planting community for purchase and use of fungicides in mature and immature areas and ferti-

lisers in immature areas, lending plant protection equipment and demonstration and training in efficient tapping techniques. The Board has been in the recent months mounting campaigns for popularising tapping of existing rubber trees under rainguards so as to increase the number of tapping days and thereby the production and use of chemical yield stimulants on older trees for immediate boosting up of crop. A new comprehensive scheme for accelerating new planting and replanting of rubber in small scale sector is being considered by the Government. Incentives under the above mentioned (on-going) schemes of the Board would be continued during the current year and during the current Five Year Plan 1978-83. The State Governments in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, Tripura and Goa are also undertaking large scale planting of rubber departmentally or through public sector Corporations.

(e) An outlay of Rs. 4.30 crores has been approved for development of rubber plantations during 1979-80.

**SHRI A. R. BADRI NARAYAN:** The natural rubber produced in our country is produced in the small scale sector. 90 per cent of the rubber produced is in the small scale sector. Our country is self-sufficient and we are exporting our rubber to the foreign countries. It is stated that Government have been considering the monopoly purchase. What is the rationale behind having only one buyer, while there are three lakhs of producers. Is it because of the pressure of the lobby of the tyre manufacturers?

I want a specific answer. I have put a specific question that it is only due to the pressure of the tyre lobby and that it is not a protection to the small growers.

**श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल :** मोनोपली प्रोद्योर्सेट के बारे में जो सबसे पहले सजे-

शन थाया स्वयं कामर्स मिनिस्टर ने, रबर प्रोड्यूसर्स की और मैन्युफैक्चरर्स की धीर यहाँ तक कि उस कानफरेंस में केरल के मुख्य मंत्री भी मौजूद थे . . . . .

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:** On a point of submission.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I will give you a chance to put a question.

**SHRI K. GOPAL:** The translation is not coming properly. I am objecting to his answering in Hindi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** He is not on translation.

**SHRI K. GOPAL:** I am asking about that.

**श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल :** उस समय एक प्रस्ताव यहाँ कानफरेंस के अन्दर थाया था कि प्रोवर्स को इन्सेन्टिव दिया जाय ताकि वह अधिक से अधिक रबर प्रोड्यूस करें, धीर उठीं में एक सजेसन इस प्रकार का था कि जिस प्रकार महाराष्ट्र के अन्दर काटन का मोनोपली प्राक्वोरमेंट होता है या जिस प्रकार से काफी का मारकिटिंग होता है, ऐसे ही कोई सिस्टम रबर प्रोड्यूसर्स के मास को प्राक्वोर करने के लिए क्यों न घडाष्ट किया जाय। यह मामला विचाराधीन है। सरकार ने अभी कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया है।

जो मानवीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि टायर लीवी का प्रेशर थाया, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि लीवी का प्रेशर यह नहीं था रहा है कि प्रोक्वोरमेंट किया जाय, बल्कि जो दूसरे मैन्युफैक्चरर्स हैं उनकी धीर से रिप्रेजेन्टेशन था रहें हैं कि मोनोपली प्रोक्वोरमेंट रबर के अन्दर नहीं किया जाय। लेकिन मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि अभी यह मामला विचाराधीन है। सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया है। लेकिन हमको यह तय करना पड़ा कि जो रबर

के उत्पादक हैं, रबड़ प्रोड्यूसर्स हैं, उनको देखते एक्सप्लान्ट न कर पाये इसके लिए हमें उपाय करना पड़ेगा।

**SHRI A. R. BADRI NARAYAN:** The international price of natural rubber is quite high—as much as Rs. 10 per k.g.—and in the open market also it is sold at Rs. 10/- per k.g. in the country. Such being the case, there was a suggestion by the Hon. Commerce Minister that somewhere a price of Rs. 800 per quintal will be fixed. Is it going to benefit the interests of the grower, I would like to know.

**श्री हज्जु कुमार गोयल :** मैं यह सूचित करना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक रबड़ के लिये जो मिनिमम प्राइस थी वह केवल 655 रुपये थी, सरकार ने अब उसको 825 रुपये निश्चित कर दिया है।

**SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:** We know very well how the multi-national companies work in this country. Is it not a fact, I would like to know from the Minister, that 50 per cent of natural rubber produced in India is utilised by companies like Good-year, Dunlop, CEAT, Firestone, etc. These people are saying day and night that there is a shortage of rubber resource, in the country. That is not a fact. Last year we exported some natural rubber, through STC of course and the current year's production is about 1.5 lakh tons. In spite of this, why this talk about monopoly purchase and all that, I would like to know.

Secondly, the only alternative is to extend the area of cultivation of natural rubber. In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands there is plenty of scope, but we are doing nothing about it. Are the Government thinking of utilising the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for extending the area under natural rubber?

**श्री हज्जु कुमार गोयल :** माननीय सदस्य ने जो रबड़ प्लान्टेशन के बारे में सवाल पूछा है, उनकी सूचना के लिए मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि वर्ष 1978-79 में रबड़ का प्रोडक्शन केवल 1 लाख 35 हजार टन है। उसका कारण यह रहा है कि मारम्भ में 1976-77 में इसका प्रोडक्शन 1 लाख 50 हजार टन चला गया था, लेकिन कई मौसमी कारणों से, जैसे समय पर वर्ष नहीं आई और बाद में अधिक वर्षा आई और स्ट्राइक जगैरा जली, इस कारण से प्रोडक्शन कम हुआ है। अन्य एरिया के प्रोडक्शन के सम्बन्ध में यह कहना चाहूँगा कि 1978-79 में जो प्रोडक्शन 1 लाख 35 हजार टन का है, इसको इस पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्त तक हम 1 लाख 95 हजार टन तक ले जाना चाहते हैं।

इसी प्रकार से रबड़ प्लान्टेशन में जो टोटल एरिया इस समय 2 लाख 33 हजार 359 हेक्टर है, इसको बढ़ाकर छठी योजना के अन्दर 30 हजार हेक्टर और अधिक बढ़ायेगे और इसमें से 5 हजार हेक्टर केवल ट्रेडीशनल एरिया में रहेगा, बाकी 25 हजार हेक्टर नोन-ट्रेडीशनल एरिया में रहेगा।

अंशमान-निकोबार आइलैंड में इस समय 988 हेक्टर कुल जमीन अंडर प्लान्टेशन है, और जो मैंने आपको बताया कि नोन-ट्रेडीशनल एरिया में, जिसमें हम सोच रहे हैं, वहरहाल तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक इनमें केवल 5 हजार एकीजनल हेक्टर, त्रिपुरा में 10 हजार अक्षय में 10 हजार, गोवा में 2 हजार और महाराष्ट्र में साउथ कोकण एरिया में 3 हजार हेक्टर में बँट करेगे।

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:** The original idea was to fix floor price, so that higher prices would be available to the small growers. But in view of the fact that you are having monopoly purchase now, will

the Government consider giving the growers the benefit of international price including the excise duty? They have decided to have monopoly purchase. It does not injure the monopoly houses, because they have their own processing plants for raw rubber.

श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल : मैंने प्रारंभ में कहा है कि मोनोपली प्रोक्यूरमेंट के बारे में सजेस्शन विचाराधीन है। जब उसको बर्क साउट किया जायेगा, तब उन कन्सिडरेशन्स को निश्चित रूप से ध्यान में रखा जायेगा, जो माननीय सत्यव ने बताये हैं।

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: I have been personally told by the hon. Minister that they are introducing monopoly purchase.

SHRI A. SUNNA SAHIB: While having the monopoly purchase and also fixing the price of rubber, will the hon. Minister kindly see that the economy of the Kerala State is not affected? Will he kindly see that the international price is fixed for the product in such a way that the rubber growers are not affected? Will the hon. Minister come forward and say that by resorting to monopoly purchase, the small growers will not be affected?

श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल : जैसा कि मैंने प्रारंभ में कहा है, मोनोपली प्रोक्यूरमेंट का एक सजेस्शन, सुझाव है, जिस पर विचार चल रहा है। वह विचार केवल इस लिए चल रहा है कि प्रोडर्स के इन्टेस्ट्स का ध्यान रखा जाये और उसके बावजूद को रोका जाये। जब कभी इस पर विचार होगा, तो इन सब बातों को ध्यान में रखा जायेगा, और रबर की इन्टरनेशनल प्राइस निश्चित रूप से एक आधार होगा, जिसको प्रोडर्स के इन्टेस्ट्स को रखा करने के लिए सामने रखा जायेगा।

### Disparity in Pensions

\*646. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Central Government Pensioners are there:

(b) what are reasons for not removing the disparity in pensions between the pre and post 1973 pensioners; and

(c) is he aware of the general feeling of the pensioners that the meagre relief given by ad-hoc increases and Dearness Allowance relief are too short of the needs of the pensioners looking to the present day high cost of living and abnormal rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) According to information readily available there were 11,21,209 pensioners (including family pensioners) as on 1-1-78.

(b) Pension of a retiring Government servant is determined with reference to the rules in force on the date of retirement. As a matter of general policy, improvements in retirement benefits are not given retrospective effect for both administrative and financial reasons.

(c) Yes, Sir. Subject to the constraints of financial resources, Government has been doing whatever it can to help pensioners.

श्रीमती मृगलाक्ष गोरे : ये जो 11.21 लाख टोटल पेन्शनर्स हैं, क्या सरकार जानती है कि उनमें से करीब 60 परसेंट पेन्शनर्स 100 रुपये से भी कम हर माह पाते हैं और इसलिए आज की बड़ी हुई कीमतों में उन्हें बहुत दिक्कत होती है? 1-1-73 को जब वे कमीशन के एवार्ड के अनुसार