

की जो सीटिंग हुई थी, उसकी बात मैं बतला रहा हूँ। . . . (अव्यवधान) . . .

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am not interested in the clash between the previous Government Civil Aviation Minister and the present Government Civil Aviation Minister. The hon. Member, Dr. Karan Singh, has specifically stated that the Committee on Airports congestion had given its interim Report and the previous Government had already envisaged certain schemes according to the report. Now, the condition in the airports has reached a stage that people are put to a lot of difficulties at the Airports. Yesterday, you know what happened at Madras Airport. No proper facilities are provided at the Airports and there is no modern device provided for the passenger safety. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether at any point of time the recommendations given by the Committee on Airports Congestion headed by Shri P. C. Lal as also the plans envisaged by the previous Government have been considered by the present Government. You have to give them relief from this congestion and provide facilities including terminal facilities, safety, accommodation and also landing throughout the country at major airports. I would like to know when you will assure the House that all the suggestions of the hon. Members are being taken into consideration and they are being implemented by this committee or, if necessary, by an expert committee. I would like to know by what time you will inform the House that these airlines are providing all these facilities to the passengers—within three months or six months or one year. There is not only one congestion; but 100 congestions.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: Looking to the immediate problems of congestion, a committee headed by P. C. Lal was appointed in December 1978 to take urgent measures. Measures can be taken to remove the congestion at least at the international

airports. Major recommendations have already been stated in the statement that is laid on the Table of the House. We are going to convert the cargo shed temporarily for the cargo traffic as passengers cargo traffic which is likely to be completed by October 1979. Apart from that, some internal modifications have been done in the existing buildings at Bombay and Delhi also thereby making an additional space measuring 372 sq. metres.

(Interruption)

Whatever is possible. We are trying to provide additional facilities as far as possible within the existing space. That is what we are trying to do. Similarly, in Delhi, we are taking steps to provide additional space measuring 2633 sq. metres by making modifications in the existing building. By 1982-83, in Delhi, the first phase of international complex will be completed. This is all that I can hope for.

Decision to stop Export of Natural Rubber

*912. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to stop the export of natural rubber,

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) how is it going to affect the rubber economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). As a result of short-fall in production of rubber during 1977-78, there was an abnormal increase in the prices of rubber in the internal market since April, 1978. No exports have been effected since

1 April, 1978 with a view to meet the domestic demand.

The decision to stop rubber exports has not affected the economy of the rubber growers in view of the remunerative prices they get for their produce.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The hon Minister has said in his reply that there was an abnormal demand for rubber in 1978; and it was due to shortage of rubber. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that some industrialists had tried to amass rubber and created an artificial shortage when there was a real problem in regard to the availability of rubber. Whether the Government has taken note of those things. I would like to know also in this context what is the criterion which the Government has adopted for exporting or not to export rubber. Whether you take into account the total production and the total industrial requirement of the rubber in the country. In that case, what was the production of natural rubber and what was your requirement for the last three years?

श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल : श्रीमन्, माननीय सदस्य ने जो आर्टिकिफिशियल स्केयमिटी के बारे में बात की है, मैं उनकी नाराज की निम्न बताया चाहूँगा कि 1972-73 के अन्दर जो नैचुरल रबर का कंजम्पशन देस में था वह 1 लाख 4 हजार 28 टन था, जो 1973-74 में 1 लाख 30 हजार 302 टन हुआ और 1974-75 में 1 लाख 32 हजार 604 टन हुआ। और आज की स्थिति में 1978-79 में जो ऐस्टीमेटेड कंजम्पशन है वह 1 लाख 65 हजार टन है। इस प्रकार देखेंगे कि हर साल प्रोडक्शन के मुकाबले में कंजम्पशन बढ़ता जा रहा है। इसके मुकाबले में जो प्रोडक्शन है नैचुरल रबर का 1972-73 में यह 1 लाख 12 हजार 364 टन था, और 1978-79 में केवल 1 लाख 35 हजार टन हुआ है। तो प्रोडक्शन के मुकाबले में कंजम्पशन बढ़ा है। बल्कि अनाफीरबुनेटली यह साल इस प्रकार का रहा कि ड्राउट के कारण, स्ट्राइक के कारण जो रबर ऐस्टीमेटेड था उतना न होकर के उससे भी कम हुआ है।

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: He did not answer one point—were there some industrialists—big industrialists

—who tried to amass natural rubber and created really the scarcity in the market? That point was not answered. I hope that will be answered.

My second question is—now the Minister has said that in the rubber economy the agriculturists will have no problem because the remunerative price has been offered. It is a well known fact that in Kerala where most of the rubber is produced, the rubber growers are demanding it and the Kerala Government is also supporting their demand. They represented to the Minister repeatedly that a minimum of Rs. 1,000 should be the price the Government should fix. The Government fixed a price much lower than that. What are the criteria, while taking a decision in regard to the remunerative price, do you really think that the price that you offer is remunerative and the rubber growers are quite happy with the money that you offer?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): The support price of rubber which was Rs. 550/- per quintal was raised to Rs. 650/-. When it was raised to Rs. 655, the representations were very much there. I have got all the written representations. Then the demand was for about Rs. 725 to Rs. 750 by way of support price.

I am speaking of the facts just prior to 1½ years and 2 years. We have taken into consideration all cost escalations. As against Rs. 550 support price which prevailed when we took charge we have given support price of Rs. 825 per quintal. We want to give remunerative price to all the growers. By and large, I am told, perhaps for political reasons it may not be possible for hon. members to concede that way. But I am told that this is the fair price fixed by the Government. I can assure the House that even though this is the support price that was fixed, which should be by and large the remunerative price, if it is Rs. 825/-, naturally the price will

rule a bit high and not less and to that extent we shall take all possible care.

Secondly, the hon. members will please appreciate, as was indicated by my colleague, the consumption of natural rubber has gone to nearly 1,65,000 tonnes as against the production of 1,30,000 to 1,35,000 tonnes. Under the circumstances it will not be proper to export rubber. But we have taken up massive rubber plantation programmes not only in the traditional areas but all over the country including Tripura, Assam, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, wherever it is possible and we would very much like to have these plantations to come up so that the country takes all care to meet the demand of our consumption here and also if it is possible for us to export, to do that too.

Guidelines in respect of New Distribution System

*913. SHRI AMAR ROY PRAHDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have framed the guidelines in respect of the new distribution system to be sent to State Governments for implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha

Statement

(a) Guidelines indicating the steps to be taken to implement the Production-cum-Distribution Scheme for Essential Commodities have been framed and sent to the State Governments.

(b) The important points on which the State Governments have been

requested to take action are as follows:

(i) First of all an immediate review has to be made about the present number of fair price shops already in existence in the State and the additional retail outlets that would be necessary to provide coverage as envisaged under the Scheme. While reviewing, it may be necessary to keep in view the distribution and location of shops in rural and urban areas and particularly inaccessible areas where at present such facility is not available or not adequately provided.

(ii) If any of the fair price shops are not functioning properly, steps may be taken to replace such shops by either cooperatives or other agencies willing to undertake the work in accordance with the code of discipline.

(iii) Where new fair price shops have to be opened the State Government should consider encouraging, *inter alia*, the cooperatives to open the outlets particularly in the rural areas and inaccessible areas.

(iv) A review of the existing co-operative fair price shops may also be undertaken to improve their functioning.

(v) The Scheme as envisaged will initially cover wheat, rice, coarse grains, edible oils, sugar (may not be necessary at present), controlled cloth, kerosene oil. A few other selected manufactured items required by the farmers such as agricultural implements, bicycle parts, salt, tea, coffee, matches, washing soaps, toilet soaps, yarn, spices could be included in course of time.

(vi) The State Government may nominate suitable public agencies which will be responsible for procurement of essential commodities in bulk and for their distribution through the approved