

**Estimated Overproduction of Natural Rubber**

2875. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated overproduction of natural rubber in the country during the year 1976-77; and

(b) how Government propose to dispose of this excess stock and prevent a decline in the price level of natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) The estimated over production of national rubber in the country during 1976-77 was of the order 11,000 tonnes.

(b) Government have already allowed export of 21,000 tonnes of rubber in 1976-77, the export of which is still continuing. Consequently the price of lot rubber (grades 3, 4 and 5 which once came down to Rs. 520/- per quintal has since improved and is at present ruling around Rs. 600/- per quintal as against the minimum notified price of Rs. 520/- per quintal for grade I rubber. Decline in the price level of natural rubber is checked through export of surplus rubber. The question of revising the minimum price is also under consideration of the Government.

**Air Services to Jodhpur**

2876. SHRI R. D. GATTANI: Will MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which air service between Jodhpur and Delhi has been discontinued;

(b) whether Government are aware that discontinuance of air services to

Jodhpur has resulted in the reduction of tourist traffic to Jodhpur and Jaisalmer apart from causing inconvenience to other passengers visiting the area;

(c) the time by which Government propose to re-start the air services between Delhi, Jodhpur and Bombay; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to ensure uninterrupted air services with a view to attract more tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) The service IC-123/124 (Bombay/Ahmedabad/Udaipur/Jodhpur/Delhi and back) was temporarily suspended in order to facilitate mandatory structural inspection on the HS-748 fleet, called for by the manufacturers of the aircrafts, viz, M/s. Hawker Siddeley Aviation, U.K.

(b) and (d). The suspension of the service has no doubt resulted in some inconvenience to the travelling public, but it was necessitated due to reasons mentioned in reply to part (a). The service was suspended with effect from 7th May, 1977, which is a comparatively lean period for tourist traffic to this area.

(c) The service is expected to be resumed by the end of July.

**Airport at Port Blair**

2877. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a new airport at Port Blair; and

(b) if so, when the construction will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Items reserved for production under Handloom Sector

2878. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that most of the items reserved for production under handloom sector are being produced in the powerloom and very little is being done by the State Governments to enforce the Reservation Control Order; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Some violations of the Reservation Orders have been reported and State Governments are taking action in accordance with the provisions of the Reservation Order in respect of these violations. However, they are being requested to be more vigilant and ensure stricter implementation of the Reservation Orders.

#### Classification of Cities

2879. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) criteria fixed for classification of cities under Class 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and so on in the country for purposes of giving house rent and other allowances;

(b) the year in which the cities were classified last and also the list of cities under different classes; and

(c) whether Government propose to declare Gwalior as 'B' class city in near future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Cities are classified for the purpose of payment of house rent allowance and compensatory (city) allowance to the Central Government employees into A, B-1, B-2 and C categories on the basis of their population as revealed in the last decennial census as follows:

Class Population criterion.

A More than 16 lakhs.

B-1 Above 8 lakhs but not exceeding 16 lakhs.

B-2 Above 4 lakhs but not exceeding 8 lakhs.

C 50,000 and above but not exceeding 4 lakhs.

While for the payment of house rent allowance, only the population of the municipal area of city is taken into account, for the payment of compensatory (city) allowance, the population of the Urban Agglomeration of the city, wherever it exists, is reckoned for the purpose. Where, however, such Urban Agglomeration does not exist, the classification of city for the payment of compensatory (city) allowance also is based on the population of the municipal area of the city.

(b) Cities were last classified in 1974 following the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. Upto-date lists of the cities classified for the payment of house rent allowance and compensatory (city) allowance, are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-642/77].