

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (e). The position with regard to import of natural rubber, copra and coconut oil in the import policy is as follows:

Natural Rubber: Import of natural rubber is canalised through STC.

Coconut Oil and Copra: Import of copra and coconut oil is canalised through State Trading Corporation of India/Hindustan vegetable Oil Corporation. Direct Import of Copra and coconut oil is also permissible to a limited extent under the import policy for registered exporters against valid REP licences issued on certain exports as well as against flexibility allowed in the use of REP licences to manufacturers exporters.

This policy is with a view to protect the interests of growers as well as consumers by way of importing bare minimum quantity to bridge the gap between demand and supply and its release is made at prices which help to control the internal market prices at levels remunerative to the growers.

Representations have been received from Rubber, growers Association of Kerala against import of natural rubber.

The quantity of rubber, coconut oil and copra to be imported in the next three years period as a whole has not been decided.

Building for Rubber Board, Kottayam

7102. **SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the Commodity Boards under his Ministry own buildings of their own to house the head offices;

(b) whether the Rubber Board, Kottayam has submitted a proposal to build its own head office;

(c) when the proposal was given in this regard.

(d) whether the foundation stone for the building has been laid, if so, when it was laid and by whom;

(e) the reason for the delay in executing the proposal;

(f) when Government propose to give the tender for the construction of the building; and

(g) whether Government are aware that delay in executing the project will increase the cost of construction and thereby causing further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Excepting Tea Board and Coffee Board, no other Commodity Board under the Ministry of Commerce is owning building of its own to house the Head Office.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Rubber Board submitted the proposal in June, 1984 and subsequent clarifications were given in February, 1985.

(d) Foundation stone for the Head Office building was laid on 4th February, 1984 by the Union Minister of Commerce.

(e) to (g). Details of estimated costs of construction based on requirement of space are being examined and construction will be taken up after the proposal is approved by the E.F.C.

Closure/Lockouts of Industrial Unsts in West Bengal Financed by IRBI

7103. **SHRI DEBI GHOSAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the industrial units financed/managed by the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) in West Bengal have declared closure/lockouts;

(b) if so, the number of such units;

(c) the number of workers affected by such lock-outs/closures;