

competitive in the international market, besides increasing availability of rough diamonds in India.

Production of natural rubber

2132. SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a growing demand of rubber and increasing short supply is reported in the "Economic Times" dated 10 July, 1986;

(b) whether it has affected the price of natural rubber;

(c) whether the production of rubber has been on the increase;

(d) if so, the figures for the last three years;

(e) the quantity of rubber imported during the last three years with value thereof, year-wise; and

(f) the value of finished rubber products exported during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Production of natural rubber as well as its consumption is on the increase over the years. The gap between demand and supply has been fluctuating.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Production of natural rubber in the last three years has been given below :—

Year	Production (tonnes)
1983-84	175280
1984-85	186450
1985-86	200465

(e) The quantity of natural rubber imported during the last three years and its value is given as below :—

Year	Quantity (tonnes)	value (Rs. Crores)
1983-84	32175	35.66
1984-85	32408	35.29
1985-86	38538	37.13

(f) The value of finished rubber products exported during last three years has been as given below :—

Year	Value of rubber products (Rubber manufactured, auto tyres and tubes and footwear exported)
1983-84	Rs. 60.80 Crores
1984-85	Rs. 88.10 Crores
1985-86	Rs. 100.00 Crores (Estimated).

Criteria for grant of financial assistance to Indian Consultancy Organisations

2133. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have notified the eligibility criteria for grant of financial assistance to Indian consultancy organisations for opening offices abroad; and

(b) if so, the criteria laid down in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). Eligibility criteria for according MDA grant for meeting the approved expenses to be incurred in opening and running of foreign offices by consultancy firms are inter-alia as follows :

(i) The applicant firm should be a registered Proprietor/Partnership/Private/Public Ltd. Company/Cooperative Society.