

COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production and consumption of natural rubber in the country during the last three years are as given below:

	1991-92	1992-93 (Tonnes)	1993-94
Production	366,745	393,490	435,160
Consumption	380,150	414,105	450,480
Gap	13,405	20,615	15,320

(c) & (d) The manufacturers of tyre have increased the price of tyres by 5.5% to 8.5% from 1.10.1994 when price of rubber went up to Rs. 32/- per kg. against a Bench Mark Price of Rs. 24.90/- per kg. No increase in price of tyres and tubes has been reported thereafter.

(e) to (i) Yes, Sir. As the domestic production of natural rubber in the country is short of demand, 10,000 tonnes of NR have been allowed to be imported by actual users (industries) free of import duty during the current lean season. Imports shall be strictly subject to actual users condition and such imports are required to be completed before 31.8.1995. This is not likely to adversely affect the interests of rubber growers.

[English]

Loans to Minorities

1767. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received several complaints that minorities are not getting loans from Scheduled banks for development and for starting their business;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide loans to backward classes of society including minorities on priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to encourage the minorities to establish their own banks and to organise their own cooperative credit societies;

(e) if so, the facilities likely to be given to them for the purpose; and

(f) if not, the reasons there-for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised the banks to take various steps to facilitate a smooth and adequate flow of credit to minority communities under the various welfare programmes of the Government and under Priority Sector Advances of the banks. However, whenever any complaints regarding non-sanctioning of loans or any other difficulty in obtaining the banks loans from the public including those belonging to the minority communities are received, the same are taken up with the banks concerned by RBI/Government. As per the data pertaining to priority sector credit furnished by RBI, number of borrowal accounts belonging to the minority communities have increased from 12.25 lakhs in March, 1990 to 12.76 lakhs in March, 1994 in 41 identified districts having minority concentration. The balance out standing have increased from Rs. 721 crores to Rs. 1070 crores during the same

period in the 41 identified districts having minority concentration. The priority sector credit to minorities for all the districts in the country have increased from Rs. 4332 crores in March, 1990 to Rs. 6352 crores in March, 1994 and the number of borrowal accounts belonging to the minority communities have increased from 52.90 lakhs in March, 1990 to 59.11 lakhs in March, 1994.

(d) to (f) The present policy of RBI is to allow establishment of primary cooperative banks on the basis of need, potential and prospects of the proposed primary cooperative banks to attain viability within the stipulated time. No primary cooperative banks is to be established on the basis of caste/creed/profession/avocation of a specific Section of the population of society.

[Translation]

Seizure of Foreign Currencies, Drugs and Gold

1768. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of foreign currencies, gold and drugs has been seized by the Government during the last three months;

(b) if so, the quantity of each of the items seized indicating the details of the seizure;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against such persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Cess on Marine Products

1769. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total cess collected and utilised for the welfare of marine sector during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposed to abolish cess on export of marine products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total Cess collected under MPEDA Act 1972 and expenditure