

travel circuit concept indicating inter-se priorities in the development of tourist centres. Thereafter responsibilities will be assigned for the development of tourist infrastructure at centres along the travel circuits in the Central and State Sectors. The requisite proposals from the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala are awaited.

(c) No, Sir.

Sanction of Capital Subsidy for Growers of Rubber

6537. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to issue an early sanction of the capital subsidy for the scheme, so that the growers of rubber could avail of the benefit in the current planting season itself?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): a scheme entitled 'Rubber Plantation Development Scheme' aimed at accelerating the pace of new planting and replanting of Rubber has been proposed by the Rubber Board for implementation over a five year period from 1980/81 to 1984/85. The scheme is presently under examination of the Government.

Charging of Interest by A.R.D.C. for Long Term Agricultural Loans

6538. SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agricultural Refinance Development Corporation is charging an interest of 10½ to 11 per cent for long term Agriculture loans;

(b) when World Bank is charging only .75 per cent interest, the reasons why A.R.D.C. is taking a huge margin of profit;

(c) whether for long term cultivations, like coconut, rubber, where farmers have to wait for 8 to 10 years to get income, Government propose to reduce the interest to a maximum of 4 per cent to 5 per cent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir. Agricultural Refinance & Development Corporation is a refinancing institution and it does not, directly lend to farmers. The rates of interest at which it makes refinance available to banks are as follows:

(i) I Minor Irrigation/land Development . . .	6.5%
(ii) Diversified Purposes:	
(a) Small Farmers . . .	6.5%
(b) others . . .	7.5%

The banks retain a margin of 3 per cent and charge 9.5 per cent and 10.5 per cent from the ultimate borrowers.

(b) Credits received by the Govt of India from the International Development Association, an affiliate of the World Bank, carry no interest but only a service charge of ¾ of 1 per cent per annum. Terms and conditions of external assistance received from several bilateral and multi-lateral sources differ considerably. Interest rates on loans sanctioned by the Central Government are prescribed, taking into account the overall cost of Central Government borrowings from various sources, including domestic borrowings.

(c) There is no proposal of Banks reducing the rate of interest on their loans to agricultural borrowers.

इस्पात संयंत्रों का अपूर्ण निर्माण और विस्तार

6539. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कुछ इस्पात संयंत्रों के निर्माण और विस्तार से संबंधित कार्य धनराशियों की कमी के कारण अपूर्ण पड़े हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन इस्पात संयंत्रों के नाम क्या हैं और उनके लिये कितनी धनराशि की आवश्यकता है ; और