

(c) whether it is also a fact that by doing so, the nationalised banks are charging the same rate of interest from small scale units where advances are more than Rs. 25 lakhs; and

(d) if so, how Government justify their policy of offering concessions to small scale units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The guarantee fee is borne by the banks in respect of advances where individual credit limits do not exceed Rs. 25,000. In respect of others, the banks may pass on the guarantee commission to the borrowers concerned.

Funds of Commercial Banks for Loan to Private Housing

2940. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds earmarked by commercial banks for loans to private housing are not fully utilized;

(b) if so, the causes for their under-utilization; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). During the year 1983 Reserve Bank of India had allocated Rs. 150 crores being provided by banking system as housing finance to various categories of borrowers. Of this, an amount of Rs. 65 crores was earmarked for being provided directly to individuals/groups of individuals and balance of Rs. 85 crores as indirect finance to institution like HUDCO, State Housing Board and HDFC. It is true that banks could not fully utilise the funds allocated for private housing. However, under-utilized amount has been made available to HUDCO and State Level Agencies for construction of houses for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Economically weaker Sections and Low Income Groups.

Second-Hand Wollen Garments

2941. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether second-hand wollen garments and apparel and rugs are allowed to be imported labelled as 'Rags';

(b) the volume and total cost of such imports in 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(c) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the reports that these are sold in bazars in Delhi and other North Indian towns in violation of the condition of licences;

(d) whether it thus poses a public health hazard in view of the outbreak of diseases like 'AIDS' in the western countries; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such mishaps in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Wollen rags are allowed import by Actual Users in pre-mutilated condition as per the current Import Policy AM 1985-88.

(b) Quantity	1982-83	1283-84	1984-85
Kg. (in lakhs)	178.84	267.65	335.20
Value Rs. (in lakhs)	1163.28	1598.56	2198.56

(Source IWME, Bombay)

(c) to (e). Malpractices in import of wollen rags have come to the notice of the Government. To prevent the abuse, the policy for import of rags has been amended, so as to allow import of woollen rags only in pre-mutilated condition. The question of import of second-hand woollen garments and apparels for use by public may not, therefore, arise.

Demand of Rubber

2942. DR. K. G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present demand of natural rubber in the country per year and for the last three years;

(b) whether it is commensurate with the per centage increase in production; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to increase production of nature rubber ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c). The consumption and production of natural rubber during the last three years and estimated for the current year are as under :

Year	Production (Tonnes)	%age increase over previous years	Consumption (Tonnes)	%age Increase over previous year
1982-83	165,850	8.5	195,545	3.8
1983-84	175,280	5.7	209,480	7.1
1984-85	186,450	6.4	217,510	3.8
1985-86	201,000*	7.8	230,000*	5.7

*Estimated.

The annual percentage increase in production of natural rubber is more than the percentage increase in consumption. The Rubber Board provides subsidies, extension advisory support rain-guarding materials high yielding planting material etc. for growers and is also undertaking research on various aspects of rubber cultivation with a view to increasing rubber production in the country.

News Item "Barley Shortage Hits Malt Based Industries"

2943. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "Barley shortage hist malt-based industries" appearing in the 'Indian Express' at 22 October, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the shortage of barley in the market;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of barley malt-based and pharmaceutical industries are suffering due to shortage and poor quality of barley; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to meet the shortage of barley in the market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Decline in production of barley in recent years is due to shrinkage of area under barley cultivation and low yield rates.

(c) and (d). Malt based industry is reported to have been hit by the shortage of barley. The review of import-export policy is a continuous process and appropriate steps and corrective measures are taken, keeping in view the demand and supply position.

Coffee Plantation in Hilly Areas of Andhra Pradesh

2944. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the hilly areas in Visakhapatnam and East Godavary Districts in Andhra Pradesh are quite suitable for coffee plantations;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Coffee Board to encourage coffee plantation there; and

(c) when Government propose to set up Coffee Research Station in Araku Valley in Vizag. District of Andhra Pradesh which has immense potentiality for coffee growth ?