

(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 ?

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

(b) Coffee Board, besides research and extension support, training facilities, high yielding seed material and expansion subsidy, have opened a number of offices during 1970-1980 to encourage coffee plantations there.

(c) The regional research station at Chintapalli is adequate to provide the requisite research know-how for the whole of Andhra Pradesh as well as Orissa.

Distress Sale of Jute by Bihar Farmers

2945. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item "distress sale of jute by Bihar farmers" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' of 3 September, 1985;

(b) if so, whether the farmers have burnt their stocks of jute on not getting even the cost of production;

(c) whether Government of West Bengal have approached the Union Government to raise the support price of jute from Rs. 200 to 600 a quintal;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to raise the support price of jute;

(e) the support prices of other agricultural commodities remunerative; and

(f) whether a statement will be laid on the Table of the House showing the names of the products of the farmers and their support prices fixed and whether the farmers are getting those minimum prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). The Government has not received any report of farmers burning their stocks of jute. In view of the bumper crop this year, the Jute Corporation of India has launched a massive procurement drive and have mopped up over 19 lakh bales of jute so far. They are advising the farmers through mass media to bring their produce to JCI/Co-operative purchase Centres for sale at statutory minimum price.

(c) No such proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). A statement is attached.

Statement

The procurement/minimum support prices for other commodities are as under :

(Procurement/Minimum Support Prices (According to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	Variety	Crop Year	Price
1	2	3	4
Wheat	FAQ	1984-85	157
Barley	FAQ	1984-85	130
Gram	FAQ	1984-85	245
Rapeseed and Mustard	FAQ	1984-85	385
Flue-Cured	Farm Grade	1984-85	11.50*