

and utilities and take other steps for commencement of production. Apart from policy framework the Government of India provides facility of customs bonding as and when approached by the entrepreneurs.

There are 245 approved export oriented units in UP, out of which 44 units are already in production and 49 units are in different stages of implementation.

[Translation]

#### **Report of Mukherjee Committee**

4548. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the Mukherjee Committee constituted to enquire into the causes of accident in Gajlitand mine of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL);

(b) the time by which the Committee was expected to submit its report and the reasons for delay in submission of report;

(c) whether any further time limit has been fixed for submitting this report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Chairman of the Committee has various grievances against the Ministry on account of which the investigations has been delayed; and

(f) if so, the details of the grievances, indicating the manner in which grievances have been redressed and the date on which these were redressed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (d) On the basis of information received from Ministry of Labour, it is learnt that the Court of Inquiry which was set up vide gazette notification dated 17.10.95, was required to submit its report within a period of three months. However, the Court of Inquiry could not submit its report within the stipulated period as the work relating to the Court of Inquiry initially got delayed mainly because it took sufficient time to flush out the water from the collieries. Other reasons for delay were insistence by the Chairman, Court of inquiry for full recovery of mines for the purpose of inspection and examination/cross examination/re-examination of large number of witnesses/parties. As such the duration of the Court of Inquiry was extended from time to time. The Court of Inquiry has since completed its proceedings and presented its report to the Government on 29.6.98.

(e) and (f) The main grievance of the Chairman of the Court of Inquiry was against the management of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) in the matter of delay in recovery of mines. The issue was discussed in two meetings of the officers of Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Coal and the management of BCCL. After detailed analysis, it was felt that full recovery of the mines would take a very long time

and would involve huge cost. The idea of full recovery of mines was, therefore, dropped. The Chairman, Court of Inquiry, who was also present in the meeting also did not insist on full recovery of mines thereafter.

[English]

#### **Import of Black Grams**

4549. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether black grams are being imported from the countries like Burma, etc;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that prices of black gram have dipped down to Rs. 900 per quintal after import; and

(d) if, so the prices of imported black gram ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Grams being freely importable, imports take place as per demand and supply position in the country.

(c) The current wholesale prices of black Gram at selected centres of the country are ruling in the range of Rs. 1075-1850 per quintal.

(d) As per the latest available information, the average price of Black Gram imported from Myanmar during April-July, 1997 worked out to Rs. 1225 per quintal.

#### **Support Price of Rubber**

4550. SHRI T. GOVINDAN .  
SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA .

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Kerala Government to raise the support price for rubber at Rs. 55/- per kg. and start procurement of 50000 MTs. by STC; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to stabilize the price of Natural Rubber in the domestic market and to provide a remunerative price to the Rubber Growers, the Govt. have, in mid-May, 1998, authorised the STC to procure a quantity of 20,000 MT of natural rubber. The process of revising the Bench Mark Price for Natural Rubber is also underway.