support price to natural rubber or to incur any expenditure on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUK-HERJEE) : A Buffer Stocking scheme is in operation since 1986 with a view to ensure remunerative prices to the rubber growers and making available natural rubber to the user industry at a reasonable price. This scheme also provides for market intervention by the Government agencies at appropriate time to ensure the above objectives. There is no proposal to immediately withdraw the scheme.

Export of Iron Ore

7362. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to export iron ore to different countries;

(b) if so, which countries are presently importing iron ore from India;

(c) the quantum of iron ore imported by each of these countries during the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of iron ore procured from different iron ore mines in Orissa during these years by MMTC for export purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUK-HERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Iron ore is being exported mainly to Japan, South Korea, China, Pakistan, Middle East countries and Malaysia.

(c) The quantum of iron ore imported by each of these countries during the last three years from India is as under :

(Qty. Lakh tonnes)

Country	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (Pro.) (Apr. '93-- Feb. '94)
Japan	183.02	157.88	147.36
S. Korea	37.04	41.87	36.64
China	16.37	34.70	34.67
Pakistan . . .	4.02	3.22	4.53
Middle East . . .	1.39	0.81	1.66
Malaysia	0.82	0.55	0.68

(SOURCC : MMTC)

(d) The quantum of iron ore procured from different iron ore mines in Orissa during these years by MMTC for export are as under :

(Qty. Lakh tonnes)

1991-92	19.77
1992-93	10.87
1993-94 . . . . . (Provisional)	11.21

Free Trade Zone areas in Karnataka

7363. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of free trade zone areas located in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are considering to set up new free trade