

[18 December, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

also been taken. MIS will be launched on a specific request from the State/Union Territory. Government and the profits incurred, if any, in these operations will be shared by the Central Government and the concerned State/Union Territory Government on 50:50 basis. Arccanut has been procured by the Government of Goa under MIS during the year 2001-2002.

Export of Natural Rubber

2919. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase the export of natural rubber; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the on-going efforts to boost the export of Natural Rubber through various promotional measures, Government has recently approved a scheme for export promotion of Natural Rubber. The Scheme *inter-alia* provides for financial incentives to exporters of Natural Rubber for quality improvement, certification, packaging and transportation.

Tea Export

2920. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tea export of the country has plummeted by 7.18 million kgs. in the first seven months of the current year in comparison to previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the manufacture of orthodox tea in the country keeping in view the fact that majority of tea consuming countries prefer orthodox tea to CTC tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):