

Declaration of bench mark price for rubber

175. SHRIJ.CHTTHARANJAN:

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the Bench Mark price rates fixed by the Central Government for the various grades of natural rubber;

(b) how far it has helped to keep up the market price to this level during this period after the declaration of the bench mark price rates; and

(c) whether Government have taken steps to purchase the natural rubber at the rates declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Bench Mark Prices for Natural Rubber were last revised on 28.9.1998 and fixed at Rs. 3405 per quintal and Rs. 3355 per quintal for RSS-4 and RSS-5 grades respectively.

(b) Since the declaration of the Bench Mark Prices in September, 1998, the prices of RSS-4 and RSS-5 grades in general had remained below bench mark level except during June, 1999 and in August, 2001.

(c) In order to stabilise the price of Natural Rubber and to ensure reasonable price to the growers for their produce, the Government of India had made a market intervention during 1997—2001 through STC and procured around 53687 MT of Natural Rubber at the prevailing market price. This procurement was, however, largely linked to the supply of Natural Rubber from domestic source to the Advance Licence Holders to ensure that they get the raw material at the international rate for fulfilment of their export commitments.

Impact of new FBI proposals on indigenous industry

176. SHRILAJPATRAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Foreign Direct Investment proposals cleared by Government during the last two years;

(b) the details of Foreign Direct Investment proposals for the next year; and

(c) whether Government have kept in mind the problems the indigenous