

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: The Jute Commissioner is there just to watch the interests of the growers, and we have been requesting the State Government to issue the identity cards to all the growers so that we but only from the growers. At the same time we have been paying Rs. 75 lakhs to the State Government for providing the marketing facilities at the hats and mandis, and if they provide these facilities, surely they can depute one of their representatives also there to see that the purchases are made from the growers, specially those growers who bring their identity cards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, I have raised my hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This has been discussed in a Call Attention Motion. Question No. 162—Mr. Satyanarayan Reddy.

Release of Imported Natural Rubber

*162. **SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Rubber Growers Association have requested the Central Government to direct the State Trading Corporation to stop the release of imported natural rubber in the market in view of crash in the prices of natural rubber to uneconomic level; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view downward trend of domestic rubber prices, Government have asked the State Trading Corporation to regulate import and releases of natural rubber suitably so as to achieve the price objective.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, during, 1986-87, the natural

rubber production in the country has been anticipated by the Rubber Board at 215,000 tonnes. Why has the demand been placed at 215,000 tonnes? The shortfall has been plugged at 35,000 tonnes. Against this shortfall, the Rubber Board has plans to import 30,000 tonnes. The Rubber Growers' Association has appealed to direct the State Trading Corporation not to release the imports. I would like to know from hon. Minister that in view of the present situation, in view of the rubber production in the country, whether the Government is planning to review the whole policy and evolve a new policy so far as rubber production and import of rubber is concerned.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Actually, the figure of production as given by the Indian Rubber Growers' Association, is 2,26,000 tonnes and the consumption will be 2,50,000 tonnes. There will be a shortfall of 24,000 tonnes. So, imports will be allowed keeping this shortfall in view, and we have taken action on their demand.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: The Minister has said that action will be taken. I would like to know what action is proposed to be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says the shortfall is 24,000 tonnes and imports will be allowed only to the extent of 24,000 tonnes.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are the rubber growing states. Kerala alone produces three-fourths of the rubber in the country and they are interested in protecting the small rubber growers and the farmers; they have to protect the interests of the small rubber producing farmers. At the same time we have to see that demand is also met in the country. In order to meet this situation how is the Government going to evolve a policy so that farmers are protected, the interests of the States which are producing rubber, are protected and at the same time consum-

ption which is required in the country is also met?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: We have advised the STC to keep a close watch in the domestic rubber price and regulate import of rubber and its releases suitably so as to achieve price objective which is to maintain price of RMA IV grade rubber round-about Rs. 16500 per tonne which is prevailing. On the basis of review made in June 1986, another advice was about demand and supply gap of rubber which during 1986-87 is estimated at around 40,000 tonnes. We also maintain a buffer stock by import of 2500 tonnes of rubber additionally. STC has so far contracted only for 40,000 tonnes as I have indicated previously, and we are keeping a close watch on the price in the Kottayam market.

We shall not allow the price to go down, below the level of Rs. 16,000...

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Rs. 16,500.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Between Rs. 16,000 and Rs. 16,500 per tonnes. As I said, they are keeping a close watch.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमान, देश में रबड़ की खपत और अधिक से अधिक बढ़ेगी और देश में रबड़ का उत्पादन भी बढ़ने वाला है। अन्डमन और निकोबार टापू में रबड़ की खेती प्रारम्भ हुई है, लेकिन विस्तार नहीं हो पा रहा है। एक बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि देश में रबड़ की जितनी खपत होगी उस तरह से देश में रबड़ का उत्पादन हो इसलिए किसान को इन्स-टिव देने के प्रयास के रूप में और उत्पादन के ढंग के रूप में आपकी सरकार ने क्या व्यवस्था की है? किसान को दाम कम न मिलें, एक्शोर्ड प्राइस मिले, जैसे अन्य चीजों की कीमतें उपज के पहले घोषित की जाती हैं उस तरह की कोई नीति बनाइये जिससे किसान उपको अधिक उठाएँ और मकट में अधिक भाव पर बेच सकें जिसके परिणामस्वरूप उत्पादन बढ़े।

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : मन्वर, किसान के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि उसकी उपज का क्या दाम उसको मिलता है। हमने हमेशा यह देखा है कि किसान की जा लगत है उस से ज्यादा दाम रबड़ का उसको मिलता रहे। रबड़ ऐसी वस्तु है जिसके बारे में यह बात सही है कि जितना लगत का अंदाजा रहता है। उससे ज्यादा कीमत मिलती रहती है। उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए जो चीजें करने की आवश्यकता है वह रबड़ बोर्ड और गवर्नमेंट देख रही है।

Appalling working conditions in lock factories and hardware units in Aligarh

*163. **SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:**
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of the 29th June, 1986 regarding appalling conditions under which the child labour is required to work in lock factories, brass-ware and hardware units, etc. in Aligarh (U.P.) and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh which is the appropriate Government has been asked to take necessary action.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : श्रीमान, मन्नीय मंत्री जी को जानकारी है कि भारत के संविधान की धारा 24 में यह वर्णित है कि 14 वर्ष से कम के बच्चों को इस तरह से नौकरी में न लगाया जाये। यह होते भी क्या

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Virendra Verma.