

therefor and to what extent during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir. Details of exports of iron ore in quantity and value terms are given below:—

Year	(Qty : Million tonnes) (Val: Rs. Crores)	
	Quantity	Value
1983-84	81-948	383-75
1984-85	25-375	445-84
1985-86	27*955	510-20

(Provisional)

(b) The reasons for higher exports of iron ore are as under:—

(i) Tying-up export sales on long term basis through signing of long term agreements with major buyers of iron ore.

(ii) Effective marketing strategies in the negotiations to increase exports in terms of quantities in the main markets of Japan, South Korea, etc.

(iii) Diversification of iron ore exports to new markets.

(iv) Provision of incentives by way of marginal discounts in iron ore prices to induce major buyers to increase off-take from Paradip Port to compensate them for relatively higher freight on account of shipments from this port in smaller vessels.

(v) Improvements in ore handling facilities at various ports through constant interaction with port authorities.

(c) The production of saleable pig iron at the steel plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is governed by the following considerations:—

(i) The available raw material (hot metal) is distributed judiciously by SAIL for production of steel and pig iron for sale;

(ii) the pig iron production is further regulated by tie off-take in the market. The production of pig iron in the steel plants of SAIL during the last three years was as follows :—

Qty. : '000 tonnes					
1983-84		1984-85		1985-86	
Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual
1537	1497	1200	1126	1188	1160

798. [Transferred to the 4th August, 1986.]

Price of rubber

799. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY;

SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the price of rubber

during the last three years in the country;

(b) what was the price of rubber during the last three months;—

(c) what are the reasons for the fall in the price of rubber; and

(d) what steps are being taken to

stabilise the price of rubber in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Domestic " average prices of RMA-4 grade of rubber in the last three years were as below:

(In Rs./Tonnes)

Year	PMA-4 Rubber
1983-84	17510
1984-85	16570
1985-86	17320

(b) Domestic average prices of RMA-4 grade of rubber in the last three months were as below:

(in Rs. tonne)

Month	RMA-4 Rubber
April	17340
May	17380
June	16890

(c) Prices have all along been ruling above the desired price objective of Rs. 16500 tonne for RMA-4 grade of rubber.

(d) Government have introduced a buffer stocking scheme to stabilize domestic market prices of rubber.

Jute laminating industry

800. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis in the jute laminating industry in the country due to acute demand recession in laminated jute bags with the increasing use of synthetic

HDPE/PP bags by the cement and fertiliser industries resulting in huge losses; to the jute laminating industry besides rendering massive labour force unemployed; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government to improve the situation in the jute laminating industry to make it economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN):

(a) and (b) Government are aware of the competition to jute industry and jute laminating industry in the country from the synthetic substitutes. Following steps have been taken to improve the situation for jute and jute laminating industry:

(1) Imposition of Excise Duty on HDPE/PPTABLES and marginal increase of import duty in granules in the present union budget to improve competitiveness of jute industry.

(2) Railways have been persuaded to withdraw their earlier order for packing salt in synthetic bags only for transportation with effect from 1.7.86. Railways are now continuing to accept salt packed in jute bags.

(3) Introduction of scheme of buffer stock of raw jute for avoiding wide fluctuation in the price of raw jute so that jute goods prices remain competitive.

(4) Pursuing other Departments, to encourage use of more jute bags instead of synthetic substitutes of packing, fertilisers etc. and compulsory use of 100 per cent new jute bags by Cement Industry.

Workers' participation in private sector

801. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov-