

There are hotels and some of the hotel; quite good and their number is fairly large. I do agree that it needs supplementing and for that the Central Government is quite keen, but as I said, as far as the question of resources is concerned, it cannot be only the Central Government or the Tourist Corporation. All resources of the Central Government, Tourist Corporation and private companies...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said it three times.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hotel Corporation of India has already constructed one hotel near Nalanda which is losing Rs. 40 lakhs a year. The hotel remains closed for six months in summer season, I may know what steps he is going to take so that the hotel does not make any loss? Also, to attract the tourists what steps they are going to take....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant. Any other thing.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: It is a government hotel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question does not relate to profit and loss.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: The hotel is already there and it is losing. There is no customer.

MR. CHAIRMAN- All right. Next Question.

Demand and supply position of rubber/^

*22S. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

what extent the country's rubber demand is met indigenously and what is the annual import of rubber (with value) to meet the gap between demand and supply;

(b) what was the acreage under rubber cultivation at the beginning of the Sixth

Plan period and what was its acreage by the end of the Sixth Plan period along-with the comparative increase in the indigenous production of rubber as a result thereof; and

(c) in what manner the expansion programme is likely to be carried out during the Seventh Plan period to make the country self-sufficient in the production of natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) About 85 per cent of the Country's rubber demand is met indigenously. About 30000 tonnes valued at about Rs. 30 crores are imported annually.

(b) The area under rubber cultivation and actual production of rubber in 1979-80 and in 1984-85 is given as below:—

(c) Programmes for the spread of rubber in areas having suitable agroclimatic conditions

Year	Area (Hectares)	Production (in tonnes)
1979-80	2,56,500	1,48,470
1984-85	3,50,000	1,86,450

as well as programmes of replanting using high yielding clones are being taken with ultimate goal of reaching self sufficiency.

However, since rubber tree has a long gestation period the additional production of rubber from the activities undertaken in the 7th Plan, will become available only much later.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA. Sir, is it a fact that the outlay on rubber development during the Plan has been

slashed from Rs. 150 crores to its one-third and this is posing a great heart to the rubber sector? If it be a fact, what is the Government of India's reaction to that and what do they propose to do so that rubber development in the country does not receive a set back?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I could not follow the slashing of figure from Rs. 150 crores to its one-third. So far as the Seventh Five Year Plan allocation is concerned, it is Rs. 53 crores and it is an increase on the Sixth Plan where the allocation was only Rs. 36 crores.

On the question of the increase of production, various steps have been taken. With reference to the large growers, small growers and very small growers, capital subsidy has been provided in different measures. I need not detail all these things. Every step is sought to be taken to see that the rubber production increased in the country. The expectation is that by¹ about 2000 A.D. we might be self-sufficient.

PROF. C LAKSHMANNA: Sir, the hon. Minister, while replying, has stated that there has been an increase of about 93500 hectares between 1979-80 and 1984-85. On the other hand there has been increase of only 37980 tonnes in terms of production. This means, in spite of the fact that they have been encouraging the cultivation of rubber, the production ratio does not commensurate with the increase in hectares under cultivation. May I know the reason for this? Why is there no increase in production when there has been increase in hectares of land in cultivation?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: In the case of rubber there is a gestation period of 7 to 10 years. That is why the hon. Member will not find increase in the hectare and the corresponding increase in the production.

SHRI AKSHAY PANDA: Mr. Chairman. Sir, in Orissa there is ample opportunity of growing rubber in district Mayurbhanj. Is there any proposal in the

Seventh Five Year Plan for rubber plantation in Orissa, especially in Mayurbhani district? If so, how far will the State Government be helped from the Central Government in this connection?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: The concentration now is in the North-Eastern region apart from Kerala which counts for the production of about 80 per cent of the rubber. The suggestion with to Mayurbhanj district will be considered; it is noted.

श्री रामचन्द्र बिकल : मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि रबर की खेती के लिये क्या कोई विशेष जलवायु या मिट्टी की जरूरत होती है और यह रबर देश के किन किन प्रान्तों में पैदा की जा रही है ? और हमारे जो यहाँ कमी है उस की पूर्ति के लिये बाप बाहर से रबर मंगा रहे हैं वह किन देशों से मंगायी जा रही है और यहाँ जो रबर पैदा करते हैं उस की कीमत में और बाहर से आने वाली रबर की कीमत में क्या फर्क है ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: The major importing countries are Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Sri Lanka. So far as question of production is concerned, inland rubber is produced mainly in Kerala. We are making an effort with reference to North-Eastern region, as I have already said. There is of course a very small production in the areas of Andaman Islands, Orissa, Goa and Maharashtra.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: On many occasions we have pointed out that the gap between supply and demand indicated and inflated figures are given by the Department with the collusion of the tyre producers, with a view to import more and more rubber from foreign countries and to slash down the price of the indigenously produced rubber. In this regard, I would like to know whether the Minister would look into the actual gap between demand and supply before taking decision regarding import of rubber from foreign countries.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: As of today the gap between demand and supply is

to the tune of 30,000 tonnes which is being imported from the different countries, as I have already said. On the question of departmental connivance, I am not sure what exactly the hon. Member feels. If he gives me some information, certainly I will go into it. I am prepared to discuss it with him if he has something up his sleeve.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will tell you. The hon. Member has alleged that there is connivance between the Department and the tyre manufacturers to suppress the price by importing.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: No, no, that is not the correct approach. But if he has any further information, I am prepared to discuss it with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Export of iron ore procured from Daitari-Tomka sector in Orissa

*229. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to step up of iron ore procured from Daitari-Tomka sector in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what was the total quantum of iron ore procured from Daitari-Tomka sector for export during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total quantity of iron ore procured for export from this sector during the last 3 years was 1.30 lakh tonnes in 1982-83, 0.53 lakh tonnes in 1983-84 and 2.55 lakh tonnes in 1984-85.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Jani. You can put it in Oriya.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I don't know Oriya.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get the translation.

*SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if efforts have been made by him to make further increase in the procurement of iron ore for export from Daitari-Tomka sector. If so, the total tonnes of iron ore expected to be procured from that sector by the end of 1985-85 financial year and the details of the steps taken in this regard?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, the procurement depends on the export capacity of Paradip port. And today the capacity of Paradip port to export is lesser. We are making efforts to increase the capacity there, and it is on that basis that we will go ahead with the export based on production.

*SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Whether efforts have been made to increase the export of iron ore from the iron ore mines in the country in general and Orissa in particular. If so, the total quantum of iron ore procured from Banspani-Barbil sector and Gandhamadon sector in Orissa during the last three years.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: So far as effort to increase export of iron ore is concerned, I may submit that it is a case where in spite of the fact that there had been certain problems in regard to demand in the international market, the export is sought to be kept up in order to see that we get proper foreign exchange. The hon. Member has asked a question with reference to two sectors in Orissa, I do not have any figures with reference to that.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जापान को जिस दर में हम लोग निर्यात करते हैं आइरन और तो क्या यह सच है कि देश के भीतर जो स्टील प्लांट हैं उनको जो निर्यात किया जाता है वह उससे बहुत ज्यादा कीमत का है यानी जापान को जो निर्यात करते हैं वह देश में जो बेचते हैं उससे 25 से 30 परसेंट कम कीमत पर देते हैं ?

♦English translation of the question put in Oriya.