

lion in 1983. The fall in value of assets in term of dollars was the contributory factor in the fall of Bank's ranking made by some International magazines to 84 in 1984 as against 79 in 1983.

Payment of D.A. to Central Government employees

1357. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 17 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 1985 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the calculation of consumer price index, items of daily use like milk, sugar and cosmetics etc. have not been taken into consideration;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Government employees that the calculation of n^orice' index in no way reflect the rise in the price of cost of living;

(c) whether Government propose to review the same and grant DA. to the Central Government employees as per the actual rise in the cost of living; and

(d) what is the cost price index as on the 1st July, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Duties imposed on Natural Rubber

1358. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the different rates of duties imposed on natural rubber imported by the State Trading Corporation; and

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange spent for the import of natural rubber during 1984-85 (April—March) and April, 1985 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI):

(a) The rates of duty fixed under various ad-hoc orders on specified quantities of natural rubber imported by State Trading Corporation since 23-5-1983 are indicated in the Table below:—

| Period | | Duty | Quantity covered |
|---------|----------|------|------------------|
| From | To | | |
| 23-5-83 | 31-3-84 | 35% | 30,000 MTs |
| 13-2-84 | 4-4-84 | 35% | 14,350 MTs |
| 5-4-84 | 10-5-84 | 25% | |
| 25-7-84 | 25-10-84 | 60% | 30,000 MTs |

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

import of natural rubber

1359. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total quantity of natural rubber imported by the State Trading Corporation, country wise

and grade wise during the periods April, 1984 to March, 1985 and from April 1985 till date;

what were the breakdown charges incurred by STC and the profits earned from these imports; and

(a) whether the STC maintains any buffer stock of imported rubber; if so, what are the details thereof?