

(ii) Arranged import of raw jute from abroad;

(iii) Referred the proposal of Indian Jute Mills Association for production control in jute mills in order to conserve raw jute to Government of West Bengal for appropriate action in their part.

Kerala Government's request for permission to import timber

982. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Kerala Government for permission to import timber for industrial use;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter; and

(c) what is Government policy regarding import of timber for industrial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request was received from Government of Kerala for allowing import of timber at low or nil duty. This was under consideration by the Ministry of Finance. The annual budget for 1985-86 contains proposals for reduction of import duty to 10 per cent on logs, squares and slices and peeled veneers.

(c) Under the Import and Export Policy, 1984-85 (Volume-I), import of timber by Actual User (Industrial) is allowed under Open General Licence, subject to conditions laid down.

Increase in production of natural rubber

983. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual production of natural rubber in the country has increased over the past three years; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year-wise production of natural rubber during the last three years is as under:

Year	Production M
1981-82 . . .	152,870
1982-83 . . .	165,850
1983-84 . . .	175,280
1984-85 . . .	187,080 (Estimated)

Import of natural rubber

984. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing the natural rubber for industrial purposes; and

(b) if so, what was the quantity of the natural rubber so imported during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity imported during the last three years is as under:

	Qty./M.Ts.
1981-82 . . .	42,750
1982-83 . . .	30,050
1983-84 . . .	31,200

Requirement of steel wire rod coils by small scale industrial unit.

985. SHRI C. HARIDAS:

SHRI M. M. JACOB:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small scale industrial units are not getting steel

wire red coils due to the application of outdated rules regarding its distribution; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to help the small scale industrial units in getting their required quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Relaxation in rules for Indians on transfer of residence

986. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to relax the existing rules for those Indians coming on transfer of residence to import new automobiles, computers, domestic appliances and other articles of personal use; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The rules relating to import of new automobiles, computers, domestic appliances and other articles of personal use of non-resident Indians coming on transfer of residence are reviewed from time to time and action considered necessary is taken.

Import of foreign vehicles by non-resident Indians

987. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the non-resident Indians are entitled to import foreign vehicles by paying 120 per cent of duty;

(b) whether there is any time-limit for the use of the vehicles by the non-resident Indians;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this privilege is being misused by importing foreign vehicles for sale; and

(d) whether Government propose to prescribe a minimum time-limit for their use by the non-resident Indians before the sale is made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) According to existing import policy, a non-resident Indian who has been continuously residing abroad for a period of one year and has purchased the car out of his own earnings is entitled to import a car on transfer of residence on payment of duty, given in the statement hereto.

(b) and (d) A non-resident Indian cannot sell the car imported by him on his transfer of residence within five years from the date of purchase or two years from the date of import, whichever is later.

(c) Action is taken under the Imports Control Order 1955 if any case of sale of car in violation of the sale. No Sale period comes to the notice of the Government.