

rubber during the Sixth Five Year Plan period is given below:—

| Year    | Target (Tonnes) |
|---------|-----------------|
| 1980-81 | 1,60,000        |
| 1981-82 | 1,71,000        |
| 1982-83 | 1,80,000        |
| 1983-84 | 1,90,000        |
| 1984-85 | 2,00,000        |

(b) The production of natural rubber during the last three years is as under:—

| Year    | Production (Tonnes) |
|---------|---------------------|
| 1978-79 | 1,35,297            |
| 1979-80 | 1,48,470            |
| 1980-81 | 1,53,100            |

(c) No quantity of Natural Rubber has been exported since 1978-79 and hence the question of earning foreign exchange does not arise.

**Abnormal happenings in Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur**

162. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation dated the 4th October, 1981 regarding certain abnormal happenings in Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur;

(b) whether Government had also received several letters in this regard during May, 1981 to September, 1981;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Representations alleging certain irregularities on the part of the acting Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Mineral Exploration Corporation were received by Government. Preliminary enquiries have revealed that the allegations were not substantiated.

**Nationalisation of Foreign Banks**

163. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received memoranda from various employees' unions of foreign banks operating in the country with regard to their nationalisation; and

(b) if so, what action was taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No such memoranda appear to have been received so far.

(b) Does not arise.

**Setting up of Vijayanagar Steel Plant**

164. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have received any fresh proposal from the Government of Karnataka in regard to the setting up of Vijayanagar Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the construction of the Plant is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):