

KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Figures indicating production, consumption and gap between production

and consumption of natural rubber during 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81 are furnished below:—

Year	Production	Consumption (in tonnes)	Gap
1978-79	135,297	164,524	29,227
1979-80	148,470	165,245	16,775
1980-81	153,100	173,630	20,530

(b) Rubber Board is implementing various schemes for development of natural rubber in the country. The most important scheme is the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme which aims at accelerating new planting and re-planting of rubber in an area of 60,000 hectares during the Sixth Plan period by providing incentives to the rubber growers by way of Cash Subsidy ranging from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 5000 per hectare, interest Subsidy on loans advanced by ARDC, free advisory and extension support etc. The Board has been granting additional assistance to small growers owning upto 6 hectares of land under rubber by reimbursing the total cost of planting materials, 50 per cent cost of prescribed fertilisers applied during the maturity period of planting and subsidising soil conservation work at the rate of Rs. 150/- per hectare. The Board maintains 10 rubber nurseries for distributing high yielding planting material at concessional rates for accelerating the development of natural rubber.

IVP's hand in dacoity in Dabwali Branch of SBI

160. **SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in Patriot dated 10th October, 1981 about the involvement of a VIP in dacoity in the Dabwali

Branch of the State Bank of India on 5th October, 1981;

(b) if so, whether Government have contemplated a CBI enquiry into this affair; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) State Bank of India has reported that it has lodged a complaint with local police and the State police authorities are investigating the case. In the circumstances, Government do not propose to entrust the case for another enquiry by any other agency.

Target of Natural Rubber Production during Sixth Plan period

161. **SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target of output of natural rubber during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the production of the same during the last three years; and

(c) the quantity exported and the foreign exchange earned during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):

(a) The target of output of natural

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):