

**Exploration of ruby and ruby-corundum in villages near Tumkur in Kamataka**

♦333. BHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: DR  
LOKESH CHANDRA: SHRI  
BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had deputed an experts team to explore the possibility of finding ruby undum in villages near Tumkur in Karnataka; and

(b) whether Government are aware of illegal mining of ruby by traders and land-owners in those villages and if so, what action has been taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Unauthorised mining of Ruby Corundum had been reported sometime back in Pavugada, Madhugiri and Ortagere Talukas. The State Department of Mines and Geology, assisted by the Revenue and Police authorities, took appropriate measures to stop this. At present, no illegal mining is reported from this area.

**Tourist visiting India**

\*334. SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY-SHRI SAWAISINGH  
SISODIA: SHRIMATI USHA  
MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists expected to visit India by the end of the current year

(b) whether the hotel accommodation in places of tourist interest is sufficient to meet the tourist traffic; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) About 800,000 tourists are expected to visit India by the end of the current year.

(b) and (c) Whereas at some metropolitan centres such as Bombay, Delhi and Madras, the hotel accommodation position becomes acute during the peak tourist season, at other tourist centres like Calcutta, Agra, Jaipur, Aurangabad etc., there is more than adequate accommodation even during the peak season. Every effort is being made to increase hotel accommodation wherever necessary, and to diversify tourist attractions so as to ensure more even distribution of tourist traffic throughout the country.

**कोका, काजू और रबड़ का आयात**

335. श्री सी० हरिदास :  
श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही :  
श्री श्री० जे० जोसेफ :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केरल के सर्वदलीय शिष्ट मंडल में कोई अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ है जिसमें केन्द्रीय सरकार से कोका, रबड़ और काजू का आयात न करने का अनुरोध किया गया है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने केरल सरकार और केरल के शिष्ट मंडलों को अवगत किया था कि इन मदों का आयात नहीं किया जायेगा ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है किये मदे गैर-सरकारी एजेंसियों के माध्यम से आयात की जा रही है और यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार इन मदों का आयात भारत के राज्य व्यापार निगम के माध्यम से करने का विचार रखती है ?

**[Import of Cocoa, Cashewnuts and rubber]**

\*335. SHRI C. HARIDAS;  
SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD  
SHAHI: SHRI O. J.  
JOSEPH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been received from an all party delegation from Kerala requesting the Central Government not to import cocoa, rubber and cashewnuts;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had assured the Government of Kerala and the delegation 'from Kerala that these items will not be imported;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these items are being imported through private agencies; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Central Government propose to canalise the import of these items through the State Trading Corporation of India?]

**वाणिज्य तथा उस्पात और खान मंत्री**  
**(श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) :** (क) केरल में एक सर्वदलीय प्रतिनिधि मंडल से 7 जून को एक जापन प्राप्त हुआ है जिसमें यह अनुरोध किया गया है कि भारतीय काजू निगम की मार्फत कच्चे काजू की अधिक से अधिक मात्रा आयात की जाये, कोका बीन्स के आयात को बन्द कर दिया जाये तथा

\* प्राकृतिक रबड़ के आयात की अनुमति न दी जाये।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) तथा (घ). कच्चे काजू का आयात भारतीय काजू निगम के माध्यम से सरणीबद्ध किया जाता है और प्राकृतिक रबड़ का आयात भारतीय राज्य व्यापार निगम की मार्फत सरणीबद्ध किया जाता है। किन्तु इन मदों को सीधे आयात करने की अनुमति, नियत संवर्धन के हित में गुणों के आधार पर दी जा सकती है। वास्तविक प्रयोक्ताओं (औद्योगिक) द्वारा सामान्य खुले लाइसेन्स के अन्तर्गत कोका बीन्स के आयात करने का अनुमति दी जाती है और इस मद के स कारी अभिकरण के माध्यम से सरणीबद्ध किये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

[THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A memorandum has been received on 7th June, 1980 from an all party delegation from Kerala requesting that maximum quantity of raw cashewnuts may be imported through the Cashew Corporation of India, import of cocoa beans should be stopped and import of natural rubber should not be allowed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Import of raw cashewnuts is canalised through Cashew Corporation of India, and import of natural rubber is canalised through State Trading Corporation of India. Direct import of these items may, however, be allowed, on merits, in the interest of export promotion. Import of cocoa beans is allowed under Open General Licence by Actual Users (Industrial); there is no proposal to canalise the import of this item through a public sector agency.]