

Boards, coal supplying agencies and the Railways so as to secure maximum supplies of power and good coking coal for the steel plants. Weekly monitoring of the position regarding power and coal is being done by a Cabinet Committee constituted recently to resolve various difficulties and deficiencies relating to the industrial infrastructure. Further, timely action has been taken through adequate imports to ensure that notwithstanding the shortfall in indigenous production, the total availability of steel to the economy does not get affected adversely; in fact the domestic availability of steel is slightly higher than what it was in the corresponding period last year.

Glut of Imported Rubber

25. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several thousand tonnes of imported rubber has been lying with State Trading Corporation since long for want of a market; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this accumulation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The State Trading Corporation is presently having stocks of about 10,800 tonnes of imported rubber.

(b) The accumulation is mainly due to poor off-take by the rubber goods manufacturers consequent on power-cut imposed by various State Governments, credit squeeze and availability of indigenous rubber at comparatively lower prices.

Surplus staff in Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited

26. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of

STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large surplus staff with the various units of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited;

(b) if so, whether Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited proposes to deploy the surplus staff in its various projects in the Middle East; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The surplus in Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) is mainly in the category of structural and equipment erection workers, while the only project on which HSCL is engaged at present in the Middle East (in Iraq) relates to the civil construction of Water Research Centre. Therefore, the scope for absorption of surplus labour in the Middle East is very limited. However, to the extent possible, HSCL is making efforts to do so by reorientation of the existing labour as well as deputation of departmental labour for maintenance and operation of some equipment.

Export-Import Bank of India

27. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Manufacturers' Association has stressed the need for immediate establishment of a full-fledged export-import bank of India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) Suggestion have been made from time to time for the setting up of an Export-Import Bank. A suggestion to this effect has also recently been made in a Seminar on "Prospects of Indian Exports Abroad with special reference to project exports" held by the All India Manufacturers Organisation at Calcutta on 9th February, 1980. Government has not yet taken a final view in this matter.

Third Airline

28. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 34 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 1978 and state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to start a third Airline in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b) The introduction of Third Level Air Service in the country is under active consideration of the Government.

Export of tea, coffee and rubber

29. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the quantity of tea, coffee and rubber exported and the foreign exchange earned thereby during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The following are the figures of tea, coffee and rubber exported and the foreign exchange earned during the last three years:—

(Qty. in tonnes)

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Years	Tea		Coffee		Rubber	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1976-77	243600	29314	51000	12601	12296	831
1977-78	223600	56969	58000	19442	11078	730
1978-79	172400	34045	66300	14406	Nil	Nil

Replantation of tea bushes in Darjeeling

30. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the tea bushes in Darjeeling area are more than 50 years old; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to induce the tea gardeners to replant tea bushes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND

MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) In order to induce tea gardeners to replant such bushes, Replantation Subsidy Scheme was introduced in 1968. At present a higher rate of Subsidy at Rs. 5000/- per hectare is given in hilly areas under this scheme.

However, from the practical working of the above scheme it was observed that it was not essential to uproot and replant all the bushes above 50 years of age and in some cases rejuvenation of such areas may