

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. A Rubber Conference was held on the 9th January 1979, attended by Minister of Industry, Chief Minister of Kerala, Agriculture Minister of Kerala, representatives of growers, traders and rubber-using manufacturers.

(b) The Conference discussed the demand-supply position of natural rubber, measures to step up production in the context of rising demand for the commodity and price aspects. It was agreed in the Conference that the minimum price of rubber would be revised soon, taking into account the various data made available there by ensuring a fair return to the grower. The following decisions were also arrived at in the Conference: —

(1) A committee of officers of the Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Rubber Board will go into the question of the need for allowing further imports of rubber and its mechanism.

(2) The Rubber Board will examine its developmental schemes to make them more attractive with better incentives to growers for increased production.

(3) The scheme for payment of subsidy to rubber goods manufacturer exporters against export of their rubber products will be continued.

*311. [Transferred to the 19th March, 1979.]

Take over of tea gardens

*312. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO; SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN; SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO. OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take over the management of six tea gardens in Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, what are the names of these tea gardens and what are the reasons for their take-over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Establishment of dry port in Delhi

1*313. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODAR A MENON:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a dry-port near Delhi to relieve congestion in other ports and help the exporters from the Northern States to boost up exports; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons thereof and what alternative remedial measures Government propose to take in the matter?,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b) The Government have decided in principle to establish a dry port in the Northern Region of India. However, after careful consideration the Government has come to the conclusion that the project is not of immediate priority in the present stage of country's economy. It has, therefore, been decided not to take up the project for immediate implementation.

The Government is establishing air cargo complexes at inland locations to facilitate export of products which are capable of being sent by air.

†Previously Starred Question 172 transferred from the 2nd March, 1979.