т8:

line in exports has been to some extent due to the sudden changes in the export policy that Mr. Dharia has made. Sir, his anxiety to see that somehow or other the consumers' interests in India have to be protected, has always influenced his export policy. When we were in Government, we had a long-range view that exports have to be developed. But, Mr. Dharia's is a short-term approach. The moment he finds the prices start rising he comes forward with another change in the policy. Does he realise that in the process a lot of damage is being done as far as our exports of all the commodities, including the marine products, are concerned?

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-KARNI: Sir, he was in both the Governments. He was in the Congress Government, and he is now in the Janata Government.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, as a Government, it is our responsibility and we take care of our domestic consumers. At the same time, I would like to assure the hon House that policies adopted by the present Government are not short-term policies. On the contrary, they are long-term policies. Earlier, whenever we trying to have our exports, no scientific view was taken. And it is for the first time that we have involved the Planning Commission, we have involved the State Governments, and we production have taken up massive programmes. Unless and until there we cannot is adequate production, And it have sustained exports production massive through these programmes that we shall have sustained exports. So far as these marine products are concerned, thev growing every year, and the growth lest year was of the order of 15 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

DR RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Sir, I need your protection. The Minister has not replied to my question. I have

stated about the sudden changes in the policy. If he has a long-range view, that is perfectly all right. But what I want to know is why these sudden changes are there. If he has really a systematic, scientific and planned approach, that is a different thing.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir. it was because of the earlier Government's policies that the prices vegetables in the country—cabbage. onions, potatoes, etc.-went up to Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per kg. There was no alternative. But I am not in favour of any such ad hoc measures. I believe in a long-term policy and, therefore, I have taken up with the Planning Commission, I have taken up with the production Ministries we have been taking up several production programmes so that there should not be any haphazard changes. But it is not possible until and unless we have sustained production. sustained exports, sustained production is the basic need and that is what we have been doing. And I assure you that with this approach, there should not be any danger whatsoever of having any ad hoc policy. To curtail those policies, all new measures have been taken

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

Buffer stock of natural rubber

*103. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI:† SHRI SITARAM KESRI: SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the additional imports of natural rubber the buffer stock came down to a

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishna Nand Joshi.

month's consumption by the end of 1978 when the normal buffer stock of about four months consumption is kept;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that the prices of natural rubber rose from Rs. 640/-per 100 kilograms in November, 1977 to Rs. 740/- in December, 1978, and
- (c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government have taken to augment the buffer stock of natural rubber and to check the rise in its price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) No, Sir. The stock of Natural Rubber at the end of December, 1978 was sufficient for more than two and half months' consumption requirements of the industry.
- (b) The price of lot rubber in the Kottayam Market ranged between Rs. 620-640 per quintal during November, 1977 and Rs. 950—1000 per quintal during December, 1978.
- (c) The increase in price of natural rubber in 1978 was mainly due to:--
 - fall in production of natural rubber due to adverse climatic conditions;
 - (2) increase in demand from the manufacturing industry;
 - (3) increase in international price of natural rubber.

On a review of demand and supply position, Government authorised STC to import 15,000 tonnes of rubber in September, 1978 to meet the shortage in the country as well as to check the price rise. STC had actually imported 14,750 tonnes during September and October, 1978. On a fur-

ther review, an additional quantity of 15,000 tonnes of rubber was authorised for import by STC in December, 1978. The STC has taken steps to finalise contracts and shipments are expected shortly.

SHRI KRISHNA NAND Sir from the reply it is obvious that the internal production of rubber is quite insufficient to meet the demand of the country and we have to depend largely on the import of rubber. It has alsoadmitted that the difficulties in imports have been created on account of an increase in the international price of natural rubber. accounts for 93 to 94 per cent of the country's area of production of rubber, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka being the other States where rubber is grown. What are the steps that the Government have taken to bring under rubber production other areas such as the Eastern region, the Andaman and Nicobar islands, Orissa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh?

श्री कृष्ण कुमार गेथल: श्रीमन् जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि प्रोडक्शन के मुकाबले में डिमाण्ड बढ़ता चला जा रहा है, हमारी कण्ट्री के ग्रन्दर रबड़ का प्रोडक्शन डिमाण्ड के साम साथ चलता रहे, इसके लिये रबड़ बोर्ड काफी प्रयत्नशील है ग्रीर इसीलिये तय किया है कि 1978-79 के ग्रन्दर जो एक लाख पचास हजार टन रबड़ के प्रोडक्शन की हम ग्राशा करते हैं, उनको ग्रगली छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना के ग्रन्दर एक लाख पचानवे हजार टन तक ले ज एं ग्रीर इस नाते नये-नये एरियाज जहां भी सम्भव है कि रबड़ का प्लान्टेशन किया जा सकता है, उस दिशा में प्रयत्नशील हैं।

SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Sir, according to the Report of the National Commission on Agriculture, 1976, the contribution of rubber production by planters with small holdings comes to 54 per cent, i.e., 1969-70 figures. The percentage

must be much higher at present due to further fragmentation of holdings. It is further stated in the Report that small holdings, below four hectares, have not been able to benefit from improved agricultural practice, evolved and other development facilities like re-planting subsidy and planting loan schemes. The Report has also pointed out that the Rubber Board scheme of assistance to rubber plantations should be modified to benefit small growers. Have the Government taken any steps in the light of the said Report to help small planters?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir. the basis of the Report referred by the hon. Member and also consultation with the growers in the respective areas, the Rubber Board has taken up several new schemes. They are modified schemes and a lot of incentives are being given. larly. Sir, there is an element subsidy and there are long-term loans on a lesser rate of interest. Besides, Sir, we are trying to explore the possibility of having rubber plantations all over the country, whereever it is possible. I have personally written to all the Chief Ministers and some pilot projects are taken up. Even though the Plan envisages production of rubber to the tune of 1.95 Takh tonnes, personally believe that there are possibilities of exceeding this and those are being explored.

SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Is the Rubber Board aware of the Commission's Report?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Yes.

श्री सोताराम केसरी: श्रीमन्, मंती महोदय ने जो प्रक्त के उत्तर में कहा है कि जो यहां उत्पादक की मांग की पूर्ति के लिये कमी होगी या होती है, उसको पूरा करने के लिये वे रबड़ का श्रायात करते हैं। मगर मंत्री महोदय ने केरल सरकार के श्रावेदन-पत्न पर श्रीर एक संस स्वस्यों के प्रति निधि मंडल के मिलने पर यह श्राश्वासन दिया था कि श्रभी हम श्रायात रोक देते हैं। यह शर्त जरूर कही थी कि श्रगर केरल सरकार एक हजार रुपये क्विटल का भाव कर दे। यह श्रापने शर्त रखी थी।

इस ग्राश्वासन को मेहेनजर रखदे हुए मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि एक तरफ ग्रापने केरल सरकार को ग्रौर संस के प्रतिनिधि मंडल को यह ग्राश्वासन दिया कि ग्रभी हम ग्रायात नहीं करेंगे ग्रौर वहां के जो उत्पादक, छोटे ग्रौर बड़े प्राकृतिक रबड़ के है, उनको ग्राप सब्सिडी देगे। इन दोनों प्रश्नों की पृष्ठभूमि में मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जब ग्रापने यह उत्तर दिया कि ग्राप ग्रायात कर रहे हैं, ग्रापने निर्णय लिया तो क्या में समझूं कि ग्रापका ग्राश्वासन थोथा था जिसकी ग्रापने पूर्ति नहीं की। इसलिये इस ग्राश्वासन को महेनजर रखते हुए मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि केरल सरकार के ग्रावेदन-पत्न पर कौन सा

श्री मोहन धारिया : सभापति महोदय, जिस बक्त सेन्टल गवर्नर्मेन्ट ने फैसला किया कि 15000 टन रबड़ का म्रायात करें तो उस वक्त वहां के चीफ मिनिस्टर ग्रौर हमारे यहां के माननीय सदस्य मुझ से मिले थे ग्रौर उन्होंने वायदा किया था कि यह जो कीमत है, जो लगभग 1100 रु से ऊपर पर गई है, वह नीचे लाने का काम करेंगे ग्रौर जब यह संभव नहीं हुम्रा तो उसी वक्त हमें रबड़ का म्रायात करना पड़ः ग्रौर पहले जैसे 900 या 950 र० विवटल के दिभयान भाव रहे है मगर जो हमारे लिए जरूरत है भ्रौर जितनी पैदायश होती है वह भी हमें ख़याल में रखना होगा । ऐसा ग्रनुमान है कि नैचुरल रब₹ 1 लाख 33 हजार टन इस साल पैदा होगा ग्रौर कंजम्प्शन लगभग 1 लाख 62 हजार टन होगा ग्रौर जो सिथेटिक रब र यहां पैदा होता है वह 25,000 टन है। सिंथेटिक रबर जो हम भ्रपने यहां पैदा करते हैं हमें उसकी जरूरत होगी लगभग 38,000 टन की। तो जो हमारी इंडस्ट्रीज के लिए बढ़ती हुई डिमाण्ड है वह भी ख़याल में लेना होता है। एक तरफ रबड़ के प्रोड्यूसर्स को अच्छे दाम मिले और दूसरी तरफ हमारी जो रबर इंडस्ट्री है पहले उसमें न केवल वड़ी इंडस्ट्री को, बिल्क काफी छोटी इंडस्ट्री भी जो हैं, रबड़ अच्छे दाम पर मिले, यह भी वैलेन्स रखना पड़ता है। यह सब आधार हम रख रहे हैं और इसके लिए हमको इम्पोर्ट करना पड़े ...

श्रो सोताराम केसरी: उत्पादकों के संबंध में ?

श्री मोहन धारियाः यही मैं बोल रहा हूं। उत्पादकों का प्राइसेज नोचे नहीं ग्राएं इसके लिए उतना इम्पोर्ट नहीं किया गया। इम्पोर्ट केवल एस टी सी के माध्यम से होता है ग्रौर जिससे उत्पादकों के हित को भी खतरा न हो यह खयाल में लेकर हम उस के बंटवारे का काम करते हैं।

SHRI S. KUMARAN: Sir, I presume the international market price of rubber is more than Rs. 900 per quintal and including the cost imports and other expenditure, comes to about Rs. 1000. As know, Kerala produces about 80 per and more cent of natural rubber than 3 lakhs of people who are rubber growers are in the State of Kerala and the rubber prices will certainly affect the economy of Kerala deeply. Taking this into consideration, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to revise the price to make it Rs. 1000 per quintal?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: We shall certainly take into consideration the interests of the growers and I would very much like to take care of the growers of Kerala. But at the same time we shall have to take care

of the industry. If the industry goes sick, then there would be no market for the rubber that is produced here. So, in the circumstances, a balanced view shall have to be taken. But I can assure the House that while coming to a conclusion, we shall certainly take the interests of Kerala growers into consideration.

डा० भाई महावीर: श्रीमन्, मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य से प्रकट है कि पिछले एक साल में 50 प्रतिशन से ज्यादा मुल्य-वृद्धि हुई रबर के दामों में । इतनी मृल्य वृद्धि को देखते हुए भी क्या यह सच है कि केरल राज्य के प्रयत्नों से केन्द्र सरकार जो रबर का श्रायात करना चाहती थी उस कार्य में बहुत विलम्ब हुम्रा भ्रौर उस विलम्ब के कारण छोटे उद्योग को विशेष रूप से बहुत परेशानी का सामना करना पडा क्योंकि वड़े उद्योग, जैसे फायरस्टोन, डनलप वगैरह हैं, वे तो ग्रपने स्टाक्स पहले से ही पर्याप्त रखते हैं श्रौर जरूरत पड़ने पर प्राप्त भी कर लेते हैं इसलिए ऐसे छोटे उद्योगों को जो साइकिल टायर, साइकिल-रिक्गा टायर ट्यूब्स इत्यादि बनाते हैं उन को परेशानी हुई ग्रौर बाद में जब देर से ग्रायात किया गया तो बहुत सारा रबर इतना ख़राब था कि उसको इंडस्ट्री ने स्वीकार नहीं किया, तो क्या आगे के लिए सरकार इस बात का प्रबंध करेगी कि जहां श्रायात की जरूरत है वहां इतना विलम्ब न हो कि उद्योग को हानि हो और उपभोक्ता को ठीक कीमत पर, खास कर जैसे स्नाम रिक्शा वालों को चाहिए, उन वस्तुग्रों को उपलब्ध किया जा सके ग्रौर इस दृष्टि से समय में जो रबर का भ्रायात करना चाहिए वह किया जाता रहे ?

श्री मोहन धारियाः न केवल रबर के लिए बल्कि उसके अलाा भी जो जी चीजें हम बाहर से मंगाते है उसके लिए हम वेल इ एड्वान्स प्लानिंग करते है कि उस के आधार पर कितना इम्पोर्ट करना पडेगा, कितना नहीं--उसको खयाल में रख कर इंतजाम किया जाता है । जो पहली बात माननीय सदस्य ने उठायी । वह सही है कि कुछ परेशानी जरूर हुई! मैं समझता हं कि सदन यह मानेगा कि इस स्टेट में रबर का 90 प्रतिशत उत्पादन होता है भ्रौर भ्रगर वहां की स्टेट गवर्नमेंट यह कहती है कि रबर इंपोर्ट करने की जरूत नहीं है ग्रौर वह उसके भाव को नीचे लाने के लिये काम करेंगे श्रौर रबर का उत्पादन बढ़ाने का काम करेंगे तो इस सरकार को ऐसा लगता है कि उनकी बात पर भरोसा करने में अनचित कोई बात नहीं है। उसमें किसी प्रकार की गलती नहीं है। अगर पूरा देश हम को अच्छी तरह से चलाना है तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंटस को विश्वास में लेकर ही हम को काम करना होगा। भीर इस लिये इस हे हम ने कोई गलती की है ऐसा मैं नहीं मानता।

यह भी एक शिकायत है कि एन० टी० सी० ने जो रबर इंपोर्ट किया 15 हजार टन. वह सब खराब था। ऐसी बात नही है। केवल 250 टन माल ऐसा था कि जिस में समुद्र का पानी <mark>ग्रौर वर्षा का पानी लगा ग्रौर उसकी</mark> बजह से यह 250 टन माल खराब हो गया। लेकिन वह सब बिक गया है ग्रीर यह जो वार बार सवाल उठाया जाता है यह केवल एस टी सो को कंडम करने के लिये उठाया जाता है ग्रौर इसके पीछे कोई दूसरी बात नहीं है।

Marriage by Air-hostesses during service

*104. SHRI S. W. DHABE:† SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA:

TOURISM Will the Minister of AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 98 given in the Rajya Sabha

November, 1978 on the 21st and state:

2.0

- (a) whether Government have taken a decision to allow air-hostesses in Indian Airlines to marry during the tenure of their service; and
- (b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): Yes. Sir.

(b) According to the amended regulations, in air hostess is permitted to marry after putting in years' service.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Sir, we have about 800 air-hostesses in Air India and Indian Airlines, of whom, 475 are governed by this rule of which a reference has been made just now, This regulation 46(c)(1) provides that their services will be terminated if they marry during their service. As against this. foreigners who are working in Air India and in Indian Airlines are allowed to marry. They are given a different treatment by and Indian Airlines. We are talking discriminatory treatment meted out to the Asians in Great Britain. But in our services like India and Indian Airlines, we treating our own people like This rule says that they will not be able to serve if they marry. But the foreigners who are working in Air India and in Indian Airlines have been allowed to marry from beginning. I would like to know the number of air-hostesses whose services have been terminated under this rule.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: Sir, I think, my friend cannot get the sympathy of the air-hostesses by just talking about the old thing. As hostesses have been permitted to marry and the Government have aiready given the approval for the air-hostesses to marry. I have, at present, no

[†]The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by S. W. Dhabe.