

## Statement

(a) Yes, Sir, since the early part of the current financial year.

(b) & (c) On a review of the demand and supply position of rubber in the country during this year, Govt, announced its decision to allow import of 15,000 tonnes of rubber on 26-7-1978. The implementation of this decision was, however, deferred as it was necessary to examine the issue in consultation with the concerned producing State and also to provide ample opportunity so that the incentive to the growers was properly protected. There was also an assurance from the Kerala Government that it would bring down the prices of indigenous rubber and ensure requisite supplies to the industry. Despite this, however, the prices continued to rule very high and the availability was also scarce. In view of this, Government authorised STC in September 1978 to import 15,000 tonnes as earlier decided upon. There was only a nominal increase in the price of rubber in the international market during September 1978 as compared to July-August 1978.

Government have since authorised STC to import an additional quantity of 15,000 tonnes during this year.

**Harassment to a Deceased Professor's Wife by the I.I.P.A.**

1475. SHRI SAT-CHIDAN AND A: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there are any complaints regarding harassment caused to a deceased Professor's wife by the Indian Institute of Public Administration;

(b) whether it is a fact that the payment of provident fund and gratuity of the late Professor has not been made by the Institute for the last eight years; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to expedite these payments?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Shrimati Uma Narula has made repeated requests for payment of Provident Fund, Gratuity etc. of the late Professor.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Shrimati Uma Narula's claim had been questioned in an appeal filed before the High Court. The order of the High Court stated to have been passed pending the final decision on the appeal before it, the certificate of fulfilment of conditions of the High Court's order and the copy of the succession certificate certified by the competent court is yet to be produced by Shrimati Uma Narula who is one of the two claimants. The payment by the Institute will be possible only after orders of the courts stated to have been passed on the subject are furnished by the claimant and examined.

**Applications for Building Advances from the Office of the Accountant General, Kerala**

U476. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for house building advance received from the Office of the Accountant General, Kerala, Trivandrum, during the last three years, the number of cases pending sanction at present and since when these house building advances have been pending;

(b) what are the reasons for the pendency of these cases; and

(c) what action the Central Government propose to take to expedite the disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and

Previously Unstarred Question 921, transferred from the 6th December 1978.