

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) It is submitted that World Trade Organisation (WTO) was established on 1.1.1995 as a result of Marrakesh Agreement dated April 15, 1994. No official, who negotiated on behalf of the country at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), joined the service under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It may not be in national interest to deny employment opportunities to retired officials of the Government of India in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) where there is a need to increase the representation of developing countries.

Commanding Heights of Economy Remains in Public Sector

2951. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Commanding heights of economy remains in the public sector in view of globalisation;

(b) which are the public sector enterprises identified as "Profit making concern by pumping more money, eliminating bottlenecks and allied ills affecting their efficient functioning"; and

(c) the details which are exclusive concerns and which are facing market competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) With the announcement of New Industrial Policy in July 1991 Government changed its policy towards Public Sector Units (PSUs). The decades-old command economy approach gave way to a new approach to the Public Sector. This included focus on strategic and high-technology production units and to essential infrastructure and disinvestments to varying degrees, in other PSUs. Budgetary support to PSUs was reduced and the number of industries reserved for the public sector were slashed from 17 to only 4. The four industries which are the exclusive concern of public sector are: Arms and ammunition and allied items of defence equipment, defence aircraft and warships, Atomic energy, Minerals specified in the Schedule to the Atomic Energy (Control of Production and Use) Order, 1953 and Railway transport. The rest of the industries are open to private sector and market competition.

[21 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Twenty-seven sick Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) had been referred to Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Rehabilitation schemes have been sanctioned by BIFR in respect of 12 PSEs. These PSEs are Braithwaite & Co (BCL), Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. (BBVL), Bharai Pumps and Compressors Ltd (BPCL), Triveni Structural Ltd (TSL), Richardson & Cruddas (R & C), Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Scooter India Ltd (SIL), Rerolle Burn Ltd. (RBL), Jessop & Co., Instrumentation Ltd. Kota (I & K), Bum Standard Co, Ltd. (BSCL) and National Instruments Ltd. (NIL).

Import of Rubber

2952. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of rubber imported during the current year;
- (b) whether Government consider to set up a price stabilisation fund to influence the fluctuation of market price of natural rubber; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The quantity of Natural Rubber imported during the current year upto May 2000 is estimated as 752 MT.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Problems Faced by Farmers and Private Tea Garden owners in Thakurganj

2953. VEN'BLE DHAMMA VIRIYO:

SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by the farmers and private tea garden owners in the Thakurganj sub-division of Kishanganj district in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no tea processing unit in this area and the farmers are forced to sell green leaf at very low price to West Bengal; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up tea processing units in this area and to provide support to the farmers?