

[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?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In the absence of processing unit in the area, the green leaves are sold to nearby Tea factories in west Bengal to get remunerative price.

(c) The District Authorities in Kishanganj are looking after tea development activities (under the guidance of Tea Board). The Tea Board has appraised the District Administration of the need for setting up processing units under Co-operative or State Government Sector. Tea Board, under the existing schemes provide long term loan for setting up of processing units in the co-operative sector and subsidiary of Rs. 40,000/- per hectare to the needy farmers for plantation activity.

Shortage of Soyabean in the Country

2954. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of soyabean in the country;
- (b) if so, the quantity of shortage;
- (c) whether Government are importing the same;
- (d) if so, the names of the countries from where it is imported; and
- (e) the import price of soyabean?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of soyabean in the country. The production of soyabean has been increasing and during the last three years has been as under:—

| Year | Production (in Lakh MTs) |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1997-98 | 64.63 |
| 1998-99 | 69.42 |
| 1999-2000 | 68.40 |

(Source: Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.