

tions and grant money changers' licences to all such establishments. The India Tourism Development Corporation is however, examining the question of opening more duty-free shops through which sale of Indian handicrafts and curias could be effected against receipts in foreign exchange.

**Membership of Vssociation of Natural Rubber Producing Countries**

1504. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered any proposal for becoming a member of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries; and

(b) if so, what is the decision taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

**Restrictions on export of rubber**

1505. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since restricted the export of rubber; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) No Sir, consistent with the rate of indigenous consumption and requirements of rubber, Government have considered to allow export of 5000 tonnes of rubber by S.T.C. from their stocks for the present and further exports will be considered in the light of market situation.

4—44 R. S. S. (N. DO/73.

**Nationalisation of tea industry**

1351. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to nationalise the tea industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Closure of Krishna Kumar Mills, Ltd., Mahuwa in Bhawnagar district**

1355. SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : SHRI IBRAHIM KALYANIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Krishna Kumar Mills Ltd., Mahuwa district, Bhawnagar is closed and if so, since when;

(b) what is the amount of retrenchment compensation due to the workers and what steps have been taken by Government to pay the same to the workers; and

(c) whether Government intend to hand over this Mill to the Textile Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) The mill is closed since 15-2-1971.

(b) No information about the amount of retrenchment compensation due to the workers is available. The retrenchment compensation is not payable by Government.

(c) No, Sir.

†Transferred from the 13th December, 1973.