

the reply given to Starred Question No. 5 answered in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th April, 1968.

(b) In part I of the detailed project report received from the Czechs in May, 1967, the total investment on the proposed project was indicated as Rs. 23.48 crores. In the revised report, the Czechs have excluded from the scope of the project the forge shop, cold press shop and gear shop with consequential reduction in buildings, power equipment, heat treatment and other costs. They have also taken into account the availability of a number of components from indigenous ancillary industries as well as spare capacity in some existing units and have brought down the investment cost in the revised report to Rs. 10.64 crores.

(c) It has not been possible to take a decision on the report so far as the various assumptions made in the report in regard to the capital cost of the project and the expected selling price of the tractor have to be verified carefully. In the meantime Govt. have received a proposal from the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. (Pinjore Unit) and the M.A.M.C., Durgapur for utilising the spare capacity available with them by jointly taking up the manufacture of a 20 H.P. tractor. They have asked the N.I.D.C. to prepare a detailed project report for this purpose, which would include a comparative feasibility study of a project for the manufacture of the Czech tractor as well as the tractor designed and being developed by the M.A.M.C. in collaboration with the C.M.E.R.I., Durgapur. This proposal is now being examined.

#### IMPORT OF RUBBER

16. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to allow import of rubber into the country ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the indigenous production of natural rubber and synthetic rubber is not adequate to meet the full requirements of the rubber goods manufacturing industry, Government have allowed imports to meet the deficit.

#### COMMITTEES FOR COMMODITIES UNDER MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

17. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI

R. P. SINHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of committees, study groups and commissions appointed by the Ministry for various commodities under its control up to 30th September, 1968 ; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on each one of them during the last three years ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) The information is given in the statement hereunder:—

Committee	Expenditure incurred
1. Committee on Raw Cashew nuts	1965-66—Nil 1966-67—Nil 1967-68—Rs. 2456 (incurred by the Cashew Export Promotion Council).
2. Committee for Registration of Export Contracts of Jute goods.	Nil
3. Jute Textiles Consultative Board (term expired on 21-8-68).	1966—Nil 1967—Rs. 4620 1968—Nil