

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, whether Indian scientists will be associated in the working of this launching site?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir, Indian scientists will solely carry it out; I do not understand, "Indian scientists will be associated", as if foreigners are going to do all this in India. It is the Indian scientists that will carry out the operations. Probably there may be odd people associated from abroad.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Probably, what my friend was referring to was the report in broad headlines in today's Times of India' that the Government of India have approached the U. N. authorities for setting up a rocket base, (Interruptions) whatever it is, pronunciation apart. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government of India have made . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you have made your point

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I have made the position quite clear in the body of my reply.

SHRI A. D. MANI: When this matter was being examined at the U. N. level, Mr. Rao, the representative of India, said that there was an unholy conspiracy on the part of the great powers—I am quoting from Reuter's report. If there was the conspiracy, what was the conspiracy that Mr. Rao had in mind?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not know. I cannot answer if out of context something is taken. I do not know in what context it was said, ■why it was said. There is no question of conspiracy in this matter. Here is something scientific which has to be •done and which can be conveniently done on what is called "geomagnetic

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equator". Now, the geomagnetic equator is somewhat different from the other physical equator. The geomagnetic equator passes through South India, like the north of Kerala, etc., and that is the particular point where this can be done. Therefore, India is suitable as some other countries too, and we were approached and asked whether we would be agreeable. And we made it clear that we would be agreeable provided always all the major countries would agree and would help us in this task.

PRODUCTION OF NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC RUBBER

•158. SHRIMATI DEVAKI (GOPIDAS) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to co-ordinate the production of natural and synthetic rubber; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to develop the manufacturing aspects of the said industry through the Rubber Board?

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) An adequate measure of co-ordination already exists in formulating plans for production of natural and synthetic rubber in the country.

(b) A statement containing the details regarding this industry and its allied aspects is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The present level of production of natural rubber in the country is of the order of 26,500 tons. The figures for consumption of all varieties of rubber by the rubber goods manufacturing industry are given in the table below:

(Figures in tons)

Year	Natural rubber	Synthetic rubber	Reclaimed rubber	Total	Production of natural rubber	Deficit
1954	25,487	19	2,230	27,736	21,493	6,243
1955	27,543	105	2,502	30,502	22,481	7,670
1956	23,926	3,409	3,261	34,666	23,444	11,222
1957	31,765	3,032	3,837	38,634	23,767	14,867
1958	34,755	3,044	4,044	42,051	24,328	17,723
1959	33,653	4,342	4,454	47,459	23,398	24,061
1960	45,941	6,551	5,328	57,830	25,192	32,638

It will be seen that the gap between demand and supply of rubber has been steadily increasing, and with the expansion envisaged in the tyre and other rubber goods manufacturing industry the gap is expected to increase further. While the over-all requirements of all varieties of rubber by 1965-66 is estimated to be 1,40,000 tons, the availability of rubber, including indigenous production of raw rubber, synthetic rubber from the Bareilly unit and reclaimed rubber, by 1965-66 would be only about 90,000 tons. It is to bridge the gap between supply and demand after taking into consideration the availability of natural rubber in the country that steps are being taken to licence additional capacity for synthetic rubber. A synthetic rubber plant for the manufacture of SBR type rubber, based on alcohol with a licensed capacity of 30,000 tons per annum is coming up at Bareilly in U. P. Licensing of one or two more units for undertaking manufacture of General Purposes Synthetic Rubber is under consideration.

The functions of the Rubber Board as prescribed in the Rubber Act, 1947, are as follows: —

- (a) undertaking, assisting or encouraging scientific technological and economic research;
- (b) training students in improved methods of planting, cultivation, manuring and spraying;

- (c) the supply of technical advice to rubber growers;
- (d) improving the marketing of rubber;
- (e) the collection of statistics from owners of estates, dealers, and manufacturers;
- (f) securing better working conditions and the provisions and improvement of amenities and incentives for workers;
- (g) carrying out any other duties which may be vested in the Board under rules made under this Act.

It will be seen that the development of manufacturing aspects of rubber industry does not strictly fall within the prescribed functions. The development of the rubber goods manufacturing industry is being looked after by the Development Wing. It is considered inadvisable for some time to come to enlarge the functions of the Rubber Board so as to include the manufacturing aspects of the industry; the Board should be free to concentrate on the more immediate problem of increasing the production of indigenous rubber so as to bridge the large gap between production and demand and reduce to the utmost extent possible the present heavy drain of foreign exchange involved in importing rubber.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI (GOPIDAS): Has the Government considered, the economic setback which may be caused to the rubber-producing States in the country?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes, that is the primary consideration to be taken into account. Synthetic rubber is practically as cheap as or fetching the same price as natural rubber and with all the production of natural rubber included, as has been mentioned in the statement, the total production compared to the total requirements will be short by 50,000 tons by the end of the Third Plan.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: What is the present production of natural rubber in our country, and what is the country's requirement?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: I have mentioned it in the statement. The present production of natural rubber is 25,192 tons, of reclaimed rubber is 5,328 tons, and the demand is about 57,000 tons leaving a net deficit of 32,638 tons.

WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN TROOPS FROM CONGO

•159. SHRIMATI DEVAKI (GOPIDAS) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to withdraw the Indian troops from Congo;

(b) whether Government have addressed the Secretary-General of the United Nations for securing their release; and

(c) if so, when the withdrawal of Indian troops is expected to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DTNESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI (GOPIDAS): In view of the attack on our soldiers by the African women is it not advisable to withdraw our troops from th» Congo rather than continue to incur the displeasure of the women there?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: W« do not think so, Sir. We are there under the direction of the United Nations, and we do not wish to do anything without the official direction of the United Nations.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: In view of the fact that the U.N. Resolutions are not being fully implemented there, will the Government examine the question again with a view to withdrawing our troops from there?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have said we do not propose to withdraw them at present. I do not know about the future.

SHRI SATYACHARAN: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India have examined the demonstration made by about 10,000 Congolese women against our Indian troops in the Congo, whether it was an engineered one or a spontaneous one?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: We have not examined it; we have read about it, and it appears to be very much an engineered performance.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Is it a fact that due to keeping our troops in th» Congo under the direction of the Security Council India has to some extent been isolated or alienated from the Afro-Asian nations?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I should have thought that it was the other way about; the Indian troops are there because many African nations approve of them and want them to be there.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Are we to understand that our troops will continue to be there indefinitely, as long as the stalemate continues