

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 999
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th DECEMBER, 2018

NATIONAL POLICY ON RUBBER

999. SHRI K. K. RAGESH:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the national policy on rubber is under consideration;
- (b) if so, whether any time-frame has been kept to release the policy;
- (c) if so, the details about the consultations done and the suggestions collected from rubber growers/planters or their collective bodies as part of formulating the policy;
- (d) whether any mechanism regarding procurement of rubber on Minimum Support Price is a part of the policy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

- (a) A Task Force was constituted to recommend short term solutions and long term strategies for mitigating the problems being faced by the rubber growers especially prevailing low prices, boosting production to breach the gap between demand and supply, regulation of import, to coordinate and develop synergy with the various Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government and State Government and to suggest a policy on rubber. The Task Force submitted its report to this Department including recommendations on short term strategy and long term strategies for development of Rubber sector in the form of draft National Rubber Policy.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The Task Force held extensive consultations with various stakeholders of rubber sector. The main suggestions received were to restrict import of Natural Rubber (NR), impose Minimum Import Price (MIP), treat NR and rubber wood as agricultural products, include NR under Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme, enhance planting subsidy, promote road rubberisation, support farmer producer companies, enhance social security measures for tappers etc.
- (d) &(e) The recommendations of the Task Force include examining extending MSP for Natural Rubber and rolling out a national scheme in the pattern of Rubber Production Incentive Scheme (RPIS) implemented by Government of Kerala at the national level under Centre-State sharing.
