

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2127
ANSWERED ON 09/08/2024

PRODUCTION OF RUBBER

2127. DR. V. SIVADASAN:

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

- (a) the number of rubber farmers in the country, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the amount of rubber produced by farmers in the country since 2019, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the amount of money spent by Government for increasing the price of rubber during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise data; and
- (d) whether there is any plan to provide enhanced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rubber?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) As per Rubber Board estimates, there are approximately 13.2 lakh rubber holdings in the country with a total area of 8,89,000 Ha. Rubber holdings are rubber growing areas, contiguous or non-contiguous, aggregating 10 hectare or less, in a taluk, under a single ownership. Holdings situated in different taluks even if they may be under a single ownership are considered separately. Data on rubber farmers or state wise rubber holdings is not separately maintained by Rubber Board.

(b) The details of state-wise and year-wise production of Natural Rubber (NR) in the country since 2019 are as under:

Production Of Natural Rubber (Tonnes)								
Year	Kerala	Tamil Nadu	Tripura	Assam	Meghalaya	Karnataka	Other states	Total
2019-20	533500	21600	61950	30350	9350	41550	13700	712000
2020-21	519500	19710	73780	34130	9540	43860	14480	715000
2021-22	556600	21630	79730	39240	10840	49085	17875	775000
2022-23	599375	23120	89390	45120	11425	50330	20240	839000
2023-24p	608000	24000	93000	47000	12000	52000	21000	857000

p: Provisional

(Source: Rubber Board)

(c) Government of India through Rubber Board is implementing the scheme “Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector” for the development of natural rubber sector with an outlay of Rs.999.86 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26. The scheme aims at increasing natural rubber production in the country by providing financial assistance for expansion of area under rubber cultivation and for measures to enhance productivity.

Measures such as release of clones with higher yield, assistance for adoption of good agricultural practices such as spraying for disease control and rain guarding of trees etc are undertaken to help the farmers reduce the cost of production and increase productivity. Financial assistance is also provided for purchase of rubber rollers and setting up of smoke house to support farmers to process latex into good quality sheet rubber and correspondingly improve their price realizations. Training programmes are also conducted to farmers for adoption of good agricultural practices, scientific methods for harvesting of rubber latex and processing into good quality marketable form of sheet rubber.

(d) Government of India presently fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 22 mandated agricultural crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/ Departments concerned and other relevant factors. Natural rubber is currently not included in the mandated crops for MSP.
