

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 123
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05th MARCH, 2018

IMPORT OF RUBBER CUP LUMPS

*123. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any representation from the manufacturing industry seeking green signal for the import of rubber cup lumps in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted or plans to conduct a comprehensive study to understand the possible impact of import of rubber cup lumps on the domestic rubber plantation industry and the price of natural rubber in the country;
- (d) if so, the details and the findings thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide respite to the natural rubber industry which is passing through a period of crisis on account of the continuing slump in price?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सुरेश प्रभु)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI SURESH PRABHU)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 123 FOR ANSWER ON 05th MARCH,2018
REGARDING “IMPORT OF RUBBER CUP LUMPS”.**

[a] & [b] Rubber manufacturing industry have requested for allowing import of rubber cup lump. At present, as per Government order dated 12.12.2001, for ensuring quality standards, the natural rubber imported into India has to be in conformity with the standards specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act. No standards have been prescribed for the rubber cup lump by the BIS so far. Therefore, at present import of rubber cup lump is not permitted.

[c] & [d] At present, there is no proposal for conducting a comprehensive study to understand the possible impact of import of rubber cup lumps on the domestic rubber plantation industry and the price of natural rubber in the country.

[e] Government has taken following steps to regulate the import of natural rubber in the interest of natural rubber growers.

- i. **Reduction in export obligation period** – Export obligation period for utilizing duty free imported natural rubber for exports under Advance Authorisation / Duty Free Import Authorisation Schemes has been reduced from 12 months to 6 months from the date of clearance of each consignment. This will prevent possible diversion of cheaper imported natural rubber to domestic market.
- ii. **Enhancement of basic import duty** – Import duty on dry forms of Natural Rubber has been raised from “20% or Rs 30 per kg whichever is lower” to “25% or Rs 30 a kg whichever is lower” with effect from 30 April 2015.
- iii. **Port restriction** - Import of Natural Rubber is allowed only through sea ports of Chennai and Jawaharlal Nehru Port at Nhava Sheva, Mumbai.
