

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 756
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd JULY, 2018

PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF NATURAL RUBBER

756. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD:

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

- (a) whether the Rubber Board of India has downpegged forecast of natural rubber production for 2018-19 about 70,000 tonne lower than what was originally estimated for 2017-18;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the import of natural rubber was usually higher due to favourable price situation, increase in consumption and less than expected production; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. Natural Rubber (NR) production forecast for 2017-18 was 800,000 tonnes. However, NR production forecast for 2018-19 is 730,000 tonnes which is 70,000 tonnes lower than 2017-18. These projections are made on the basis of matured rubber area under tapping, productivity and production trend during the near past which are determined mainly by price of rubber.

From 2015-16 to 2016-17, price of rubber increased by 20% and production improved by 23%. As the trend was expected to be continued, NR production projection for 2017-18 was fixed at 800,000 tonnes which was 16% higher than the actual production of 2016-17. The projection of NR production in 2018-19 was brought down to 730,000 tonnes in view of the actual production of NR in 2016-17 being 691,000 tonnes, decline in price of rubber by 4% in 2017-18 as against 2016-17, expected low prices of rubber in 2018-19 internationally and no sizable increase in mature area under rubber.

(c) & (d): The import of NR is dependent on the production of NR in the country, consumption by rubber product manufacturers and by the international prices. The production of NR declined from 774,000 tonnes in 2013-14 to 694,000 tonnes in 2017-

18. Meanwhile, consumption of NR increased from 981,520 tonnes in 2013-14 to 1111,210 tonnes in 2017-18. In this context, NR import increased from 360,263 tonnes in 2013-14 to 469,760 tonnes in 2017-18.
