

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 176
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07th DECEMBER, 2022

SMALL SCALE RUBBER GROWERS

176. SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that small scale rubber growers in Kerala have been demanding to revive the prices of latex as the falling prices have a disproportionate effect on them, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the initiative of the Rubber Board of offering subsidies for sheet making did not have the desired effect, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the rubber growers were demanding to allow the export of one-fourth of the latex production to tide over the falling of prices on latex; and
- (d) if so, the total quantity of latex exported during the current fiscal and the incentives provided by the Rubber Board to the rubber growers on the latex exported?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) The price of centrifuged latex (60% drc) has increased to Rs. 97.20 per Kg. on 30.11.2022 from its recent low of Rs.81.35 per Kg. on 04.11.2022, after Rubber Board's announcement of new incentive for export of latex during November 2022.

(b) Rubber Board had taken the initiative for encouraging conversion of field latex to sheets rubber grades during the period December 2021 to February 2022. The objective was to ensure consistent supply of sheet rubber, which is the major rubber grade consumed by the domestic rubber industry. It was announced at a point when the domestic latex prices had increased due to increased demand from glove industry. The initiative helped to augment the production of sheet rubber and bring down the tendency to sell produce as latex itself without processing to sheet rubber.

(c)& (d) There is no restriction on export of any grade of natural rubber and export of latex in any quantity. India exported 1526 MTs of rubber during April-October 2022 in which 919 MTs were latex grades. During this period, 295.5 tonne of latex was exported under the brand 'Indian Natural Rubber'.

Board is implementing an assistance programme for branded rubber under brand "India Natural Rubber" to offset the additional cost involved in branding. This assistance is provided at the rate of Rs.0.50/kg for sheet rubber; Rs 0.25/kg for Technically Specified Rubber and Rs 0.20/kg for 60% latex. Further assistance for 60% latex has been increased to Rs.2 per kg drc from 1st November,2022.
