

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1711
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st SEPTEMBER, 2020

AMENDING RUBBER ACT

1711. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to amend/repeal the Rubber Act 1947;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same and the details of the proposed amendments;
- (c) whether the Government has obtained the opinion of the Rubber Board, representatives of rubber planters, representatives of rubber Industries, and other interested parties on the proposed amendments to the Rubber Act and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering a reduction in budget allocation to the Rubber Board in the form of various subsidies such as new plantation, replantation etc during the current financial year and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the rubber planters have great concern over the abovementioned factors and if so, the steps being taken by the Government for redressal of their grievances?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): There is no proposal to repeal the Rubber Act, 1947. However, to bring the provisions of the Rubber Act, 1947 in tune with the current environmental realities, Rubber Board has proposed certain amendments in the Rubber Act, 1947, on issues like applicability of the Act to whole of India, including Jammu & Kashmir, repealing of sections relating to cess on rubber on account of being subsumed in GST etc.

(c): The amendments were discussed and recommended at the 179th meeting of the Rubber Board held on 05.11.2019. The Board constituted under Section 4 of the Rubber Act, has representation of various stakeholders of the rubber sector. The meeting was also attended by special invitees representing stakeholder associations from the rubber sector.

(d) & (e): The budget allocation / release for the Rubber Board for the year 2019-20, inclusive of a supplementary grant of Rs.41.20 Crore in addition to the BE amount of Rs. 170 Crore, was Rs. 211.20 Crore. The budget allocation of the Board for the year 2020-21 under BE is Rs. 221.34 Crore. Thus, there is no decrease in the allocation. The Medium Term Framework (2017-18 to 2019-20) Scheme, has been extended till 31st March, 2021, for the benefit of the sector.
