

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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.99  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2016

NATURAL RUBBER

99. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:

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

- whether Government has taken any steps to arrest the fall of natural rubber prices which has adversely affected a large number of people including rubber growers, labourers and their families and if so, the details thereof;
- the month-wise details of natural rubber imports through all the channels in to the country during 2015-16, up to 31st October, 2015; and
- the steps taken by the Government to utilize Price Stabilisation fund to save rubber growers and rubber cultivation?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण)(स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- The Government has increased the duty on import of dry rubber from “20% or Rs 30 per kg whichever is lower” to “25% or Rs. 30 per kg. whichever is lower” w.e.f 30.4.2015 in order to increase the cost of imported rubber and create demand for locally produced rubber. The Government has also reduced the period of utilization of imported dry rubber under advance licensing scheme from 18 months to 6 months. RSS (Ribbed Smoked Sheet) and TSR (Technically Specified Rubber) has been added in Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) which make them eligible for an incentive at the rate of two per cent of export values. DGFT has imposed port restriction on the import of natural rubber by restricting the port of entry to Chennai and NhavaSheva(Jawaharlal Nehru Port) vide Notification No. 32/2015-2020 dated 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.
- The month-wise details of Natural Rubber imports into the country during 2015-16 are as under:

Month	Import (Tonnes)
April, 2015	37916
May, 2015	34772

June, 2015	34098
July, 2015	38679
August, 2015	34788
September, 2015	34645
October, 2015	41295

- (c) The Price Stabilization Fund Scheme was implemented by the Central Government from the year 2003 to 2013 with a view to protect the farmers of plantation crops including rubber, from losses on account of price fluctuations with the support from the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF). The scheme was reviewed and, in light of the experience gained from implementing the Scheme, a market-linked Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops (RISPC) has been devised for protecting the farmers of plantation crops, including rubber plantations, against losses arising from both fluctuations in yield as well as prices. The scheme has been shared with the State Governments to meet their share of insurance premium.

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