GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

# RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 976**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2015**

**MEASURES TO CHECK DECLINE IN DOMESTIC NATURAL**

**RUBBER PRODUCTION**

**976. SHRI S. THANGAVELU:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

* 1. whether it is a fact that the tyre and rubber industries have asked Government to take urgent measures to stem the slide in domestic natural rubber production which is on a downward spiral for more than two years now;
  2. if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and
  3. whether it is also a fact that the data of natural rubber (NR) production released by Rubber Board recently shows a significant decline in production of 11 per cent in the first two months of current fiscal and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

1. & (b): Government has received representations from the Associations of tyre and rubber industries suggesting actions to ensure availability of natural rubber in the domestic market. Details of production and consumption of natural rubber in the country during the last three years are given below:

**In Tonnes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Production** | **Consumption** |
| 2012-13 | 913,700p | 972,705 |
| 2013-14 | 774,000p | 891,520 |
| 2014-15 | 645,000 | 1020,910 |
| 2015-16p (April to June) | 143,000 | 248,000 |

Government implements the scheme of “Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector” which includes components for promoting expansion of area under rubber, enhancing productivity, and supporting activities for research and development. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for new planting and replanting of rubber plantations in Keralan and Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu to small growers having land upto 2 hectares at the rate of Rs.25000 per hectare. In areas of North East and other non-traditional region, the support is available at the rate of Rs.35000 per hectare to growers.

Government has also framed schemes for Rubber development in the states of North East and Left Wing Extremism affected areas and shared with the concerned state governments.

(c): Natural Rubber (NR) production estimates for the first two months of current fiscal show a decline of 11 per cent over the same period in the previous year. Production of NR during April-May 2015 was relatively low as compared to the corresponding period of previous years mainly because of reasons outlined in part (a) & (b) of this reply.

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