

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2081
ANSWERED ON 02/08/2023

SUPPORT TO RUBBER FARMERS

2081. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) the steps and measures taken to protect the interests of rubber farmers of Kerala;
- (b) whether the Government has observed that price of imported rubber is causing issues for natural rubber producers of India and if so, the steps and measures taken to redress the grievances of rubber farmers;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to increase the support price of rubber to Rs. 300/- and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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): Government of India through Rubber Board is implementing the scheme “Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector” for the development of natural rubber sector. Under the scheme, Rubber Board provides subsidy for new planting and replanting (of senile plantations) to growers. Rubber Board also provides quality planting material, promotes Rubber Producers Societies (RPS), sets up Group Processing Centres, provides training for tapping of rubber trees and processing of field latex, provides assistance for rain guarding to increase number of tapping days and provides assistance for prevention of diseases in rubber plantations.

(b): The price of natural rubber is determined in the open market based on demand and supply. International rubber prices also influence the domestic prices. The Government, with the objective to regulate the impact of international rubber prices on domestic prices, had increased the duty on import of dry rubber from “20% or Rs. 30 per kg whichever is lower” to bound rate of “25% or Rs. 30 per kg whichever is lower”, w.e.f 30.4.2015. The Government had also reduced the period of utilization of imported dry rubber under advance licensing scheme from 18 months to 6 months in January 2015. The Port of entry for import of Natural Rubber had also been restricted to ports at Chennai and Nhava Sheva in January 2016. Further, in the Union Budget 2023-24, the rate of custom duty on compound rubber has also been increased from 10% to 25%, same as that on natural rubber.

(c) & (d): Presently, no such proposal is under consideration.
